THE NEW
SUNDAY EXPRESS
BENGALURU • SUNDAY • APRIL 14, 2024 • ₹12.00 • PAGES 28 • LATE CITY EDITION

BJP to release manifesto today

The BJP will release its manifesto - Sankalp Patra - for the LS polls on Sunday, with its planks of welfare and development besides a roadmap for 'Viksit Bharat'. The party said PM Modi and its other senior leaders will attend the unveiling of the manifesto at the party headquarters. As the BJP govt has fulfilled most of its promises, including the construction of the Ram temple and the repeal of Article 370, all eyes will be on how the ruling party's larger cultural and Hindutva agenda figures in the manifesto | P11

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Social Welfare Department

"Education is the most important weapon to raise the standard of living of the people"

-Dr. B.R. Ambedkar

133rd BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

Garlanding the Statue of

Architect of Indian Constitution, Great Humanitarian, Bharat Ratna

Dr. B.R. AMBEDKAR

April 14, 2024 Sunday at 10.00 AM
In front of Vidhana Soudha, Bengaluru

As is enshrined in our constitution, **"to value and preserve the rich heritage of our composite culture"** - is the fundamental duty of every citizen of the country.

Commissioner
Social Welfare Department

@SWDGok

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public is hereby notified that our clients Sri. T. **NAGARAJA** S/o. Late Subramanyam Naidu and **Smt. PRAVEENA MAAVILLAPALLE** W/o. Sri. T.Nagaraja have entered in to an Agreement of Sale to purchase the below mentioned Schedule Property from its present owners **M/s. KARNATAKA CHINMAYA SEVA TRUST,** Deenabandhu Devasthanam, C M H Road, Indira Nagar, Bangalore-560 038 who represent to our clients that the below mentioned Schedule Property is free from all encumbrances of whatsoever nature from whomsoever.

Any person's having any objection or claiming any right, title or interest in the Schedule Property may file his/her/their objection/s with the undersigned within **TEN DAYS** from this date. If no claim/objections is/are received within the said date, our clients shall proceed and purchase the Schedule Property assuming that the Schedule Property is free from all encumbrances and claims.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All the part and parcel of the House Property bearing No.21, present BBMP Khatha No.56/19 situated at 2nd Main, 1st Cross, Hanuma Reddy Layout, Chinnappanahalli, K.R.Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore, BBMP Ward No.85 measuring East to West 60 Feet or 18.3 mtrs and North to South 40 Feet or 12.2 mtrs, totally measuring 2400 Square Feet or 223.25 Sq.mtrs, together with building thereon consisting of 10 Squares of Ground Floor and 10 Squares of First Floor, building with RCC Roof, Red Oxide Flooring, Jungle wood Doors and Windows and with all civic amenities and bounded on the : East by : Road, West by : Site No. 20, North by : Site No. 22, South by : Land belonging to Sri. Narayanan.

A. NAGARAJA NAIDU,
Advocate,No.189, 7th Main, Srinivasanagar
BSK 1st Stage, BANGALORE – 560 050.
Tel: 26797628 / 26797879 / 9341237579.
Place:Bangalore Date :13-04-2024

PUBLIC NOTICE

Be it known to the general public are hereby notified that my client **Mr. Balaji B.S.,** (Seller) residing at Flat No.4A, Rohini Manor Apartment S.G. Palya, C.V. Ramannagar, Bangalore and **Naveen K Abraham** (Buyer).

I hereby declare that my client has lost below mentioned original Sale Deed dated 23.07.1996 registered as document No.1851, Book I in volume No.5707 between page Nos.193-204 in the office of Sub-Registar Bangalore North Taluk for the apartment No.314, 1St Floor, measuring Super built up area of 64.34 Sq.Mtrs, inclusive of Garage measuring 3.19 Sq Mtrs, Situated at Kacharakanahalli Village Bangalore North Taluk and bounded on the East : Cross Road (Internal),West : Unrestricted Common road, North : Flat No.315, South : 5.5 Mtrs Wide Road, here in after referred as Schedule Property.

Further Police Complaint has been lodged on 12.04.2024 in this regard Lost Report No.1011796/2024,to this effect which as been acknowledged.

The above public notice is now Any person/s claiming any right, title, interest or claim whatsoever, in and over the Schedule Property may lodge their claims / objections with documentary proof thereof, with undersigned, within 14 days of the publication of this Notice, as otherwise, our client shall proceed to complete the sale transaction as if there are no subsisting claims or objections and that all such claims or objections not filed in time shall be deemed to have been waived and given up and shall not be binding on our client.

VEENA RANI, Advocate
No.118, 2nd Main F Cross, Kacharakanahalli,
St. Thomas Town Post, Bangalore-560084.
Mob: No. 9535278594

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public is hereby notified that my client has negotiated to purchase the property, described in the Schedule hereunder, from its present owners Sri. S.M. Sharath Kumar, Sri Ravindra. G. and Smt. G. Supriya alias Suphiya Muhammad.

If any person or persons or financial institution or Bank has any claim or objections over the schedule property or any person or persons claim any right, title or interest, over the schedule property, the same may be lodged with the undersigned within **TEN days** from today, along with relevant claim documents, failing which, it will be presumed that the Schedule Property is free from any such claim and my client would proceed to purchase the Schedule Property and any claim received thereafter will not bind my client and would not be considered by my client. The public are hereby cautioned not to deal or transact with the said property since the same is offered to be sold to my client.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the House property bearing No.1387, (Ground Floor) PID No. 57-73-1387 and 1387/1 (First floor), PID No. 57-73-1387/1, 18th Main, J.P. Nagar, 2nd Phase, Bengaluru and the site measuring E-W: 13.41 mtrs or 44 ft and N-S: 9.14 mtrs or 30 ft, totally measuring 122.57 sq. mtrs or 1320 sq.ft., with building of 900 sq.ft. each in ground and first floor, coming under BBMP and bounded on the:

East : Road
West : Property bearing No.1364
North : Property bearing No.1388
South : Property bearing No.1386

J.N. ALASINGAR, Advocate
193, 5 th Main Road, 3rd Phase, J.P. Nagar,
Bangalore-560 078.
Mobile: 091-9845944158, 091-9900095158
Dated: 14/04/2024

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that my client Mrs. Jayakumari W/o. Arul Raj, residing at No. 11, 1st Main, Last End, Jyothi Nagar, Shanthinikethana Layout, Bengaluru - 560049, is the absolute owner of the Property bearing Site No. 53, in Property No. 24, BBMP Khatha No. 225, Basavanapura Village, KR Puram Hobli, Bengaluru East Taluk, measuring East to West: 30 feet and North to South: 40 feet, and bounded on the East by: Site No. 52, West by: Site No. 54, North by: Road and South by: Private Property.

While renovating her house, my client has lost the Original Gift Deed dated 17/02/2016, registered as Document No. KRI-1-08837-2015-16, stored in CD No. KRID572, Book I, in the SRO of KR Puram, pertaining to the above property.

In the event any person finds or in possession of the above said original document, kindly handover the same to the below mentioned address within 07 days of the publication of this notice. The general public are informed not to act on the basis of the said original document.

SOMASHEKHARA A.N, Advocate
No. 105, 3rd Floor, MR Mansion 12th 'D' Main Road Muthyalanagar
Bengaluru - 560 054.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client intends to purchase the below mentioned property from its present owners in possession Dr. Kanupriya Mishra D/o Mr. S. C. Gupta who have purchased the same from M/s. MANYATA DEVELOPERS PRIVATE LIMITED, vide Regd. Sale deed dated 27.01.2023.

The general public, banks, lenders, relatives, heirs etc., are hereby called upon to lodge their objections if any with me with regard to the property Residential Vacant Plot bearing No. 210 having Kannamangala Village Panchayat Katha No. 329/210, and PID No. 150300200401121246 of, totally admeasuring 157.25 Square Meters, (1692.63 Sq.feet) formed in the residential layout called as "EARTHSONG BY MANYATA - Phase-3", carved out of residentially converted land bearing Sy.No. 6/3, situated at Ilthore Village, Kundana Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District, Bengaluru which is bounded on:

East by : Plot No. 209, West by: Plot No. 211, North by : Road, South by : Private Property.

In case if anyone have any claim or rights over the said property, you can lodge your objections with cogent documents/records so as to reach me within 7 days from today, failing which, my clients may proceed to purchase the said property and any objections/claims raised later on will not be entertained and my client may be proceeding further.

G.R. Ananthaswamy, Advocate
No. 612, 2nd Floor, Chandra Building,
Avenue Road, Bengaluru - 560 002.
Mobile: 7204221175
Bengaluru, Date : 13.04.2024

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the General Public that **SRI. H. MANJUNATH** & his wife **SMT. SARASWATHI. M** are the owners of immovable property mentioned in the schedule hereunder and they have lost original Possession Certificate dated 20/12/1993 bearing No.PCR. P 149/93-94 issued by BDA in the name of Sri.Puli Dasaradha Ramaiah, pertaining to the schedule property: In case anybody having any claims or in possession of the said document, shall inform the under singed and handover the same within **SEVEN DAYS** from the date of publication of this notice.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the Residential House Property bearing BBMP Khatha No.244/446/242, Residential Corner Site No.446, situated at Kengeri Satellite Town Extension, formed by the Bangalore Development Authority, Bangalore, within BBMP Ward No.159-Kengeri, Bangalore-560060, measuring East to West: 18.30 Metres and North to South: 12.20 Metres, in all measuring 223.26 Square Metres and bounded on :**EAST BY :** ROAD: **WEST BY :** SITE No.451 (FOUR HUNDRED FIFTY-ONE): **NORTH BY :** ROAD, AND **SOUTH BY:** SITE NO.445 (FOUR HUNDRED FORTY-FIVE.

N. JAGADEESH KUMAR, Advocate
No.30/1, 2nd Floor, 7th Cross,
Near NR Colony Bus Stand,
Opp. Hotel Dwaraka, Bangalore-560019.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to notify the general public that my client is intending to purchase the property more fully described in the schedule herein below from is lawful owner Sri. D. N. Pradeep Kumar S/o Late D. S. Nagaraj, residing at No.152, 17th Main, 29th Cross, Banashankari 2nd Stage, Bengaluru-560060.

Any person/s having any right, title, interest or claim over the schedule property or having any objection for the proposed sale transaction may lodge his/her/their claim with the undersigned in writing with all supporting documents with regard to such claim within **SEVEN DAYS** from the date of this publication. If no such claim is received within the stipulated time, my client will proceed to conclude the sale transaction. Any such claims lodged thereafter will not be entertained by my client.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing vacant residential site No.33, measuring East to West 87 feet and North to South 89+94/2 feet, in all measuring 7960.5 Square Feet, formed in the private layout known as 'OMKAR LAYOUT', carved out of land bearing Sy.Nos.3/1P, 3/2A, 3/2B, 3/3A1, 3/3A2, 3/3C1, 3/3C2, 3/3D, 3/3E and 4/1 to 4/5, situated at Ganakal Village, Kengeri Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk and bounded on the:

East by : Site No.38, West by : Site No.30, North by : 30 Feet Road, South by : Site No.34

Sd/- **B. NARENDRA BALIGA,** Advocate
No.468/21, 1st Floor, 26th Main, 39th Cross,
9th Block, Jayanagar, Bengaluru - 560069
Mobile: 98459 52566
Place: Bengaluru Date: 13/04/2024

IN THE COURT OF DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-1

B.S.N.L. BUILDING, 4TH FLOOR, TELEPHONE HOUSE, RAJBHAVAN ROAD. BENGALURU-560 001

O. A. NO. 1275/2022

BETWEEN:

YES BANK LIMITED.. **APPLICANT**

AND:

SRI.CHINNI.G **DEFENDANT**

To,

SRI.CHINNI G. S/O.SRI.GOVINDA SWAMY,
AGED ABOUT 32 YEARS, NO.311, MAHAVEER WILTON, 22ND MAIN,
VINAYAKA NAGAR, JP NAGAR 5TH PHASE, BANGALORE SOUTH
RIZWAN MASJID, BANGALORE - 560 078
ALSO AT SRI. CHINNI G NO.918, 2ND FLOOR, 12TH CROSS, 35TH MAIN,
JP NAGAR 1ST PHASE, BANGALORE - 560 078
AND ALSO AT SRI.CHINNI G.
HOUSE NO.10, HOLLE NARASHEPURA, 3RD CROSS. HASSAN-573 201

SUMMONS ISSUED TO DEFENDANT UNDER RULE 23 (VIII) OF DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES OF 1993 BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION

WHEREAS:the applicant has instituted an application under section 19 of Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions, Act, 1993, against the above defendants for the recovery of sum of **Rs.39,95,441/- (Rupees Thirty Nine Lakhs Ninety Five Thousand Four Hundred and Forty one Rupees only)** amount together with current and future interest, cost and other reliefs.

The above mentioned defendants are required to appear therefore hereby directed to appear before the Tribunal in person or through an Advocate or duly instructed in support of their defence to show cause on **13-05-2024 at 10:30 a.m.** as why the relief's prayed for should not be granted. Take notice that in case default the application will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of the Tribunal on this day **27 March 2024.**

Seal

BY THE ORDER OF THE TRIBUNAL
REGISTRAR-1
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-1
BANGALORE

पंजाब नैशनल बैंक punjab national bank

(A Government of India Undertaking)

CIRCLE SASTRA CENTRE, BANGALORE, 26-27, Raheja Towers, M.G.Road, Bangalore-560001, E-mail: cs8191@pnb.co.in

(Format for Publication if Identification order remains unserved)

Notice with regard to Order of Identification Committee for Identification of Wilful Defaulters

To,

M/s Dwarakamayee Solutions, # No. 100A, Ground Floor, 19th Main, 1st Block, Rajaji Nagar, Bangalore-560010.	**Mrs. Sindhu Suresh Gowda,** Prop. M/s Dwarakamayee Solutions, # No. 100A, Ground Floor, 19th Main, 1st Block, Rajaji Nagar, Bangalore-560010.	**Mrs. Sindhu Suresh Gowda,** Prop. M/s Dwarakamayee Solutions, # No. 2616, 11th. Main, E-Block, 2nd Stage, Rajaji Nagar, Bangalore-560010.
Mrs. Sindhu Suresh Gowda, Prop. M/s Dwarakamayee Solutions, # 290/09, 2nd Floor, 8th Main, "A" Block, 2nd Stage, Malleshwara West, Bangalore-560055.	**Mrs. Sindhu Suresh Gowda,** Prop. M/s Dwarakamayee Solutions, # 1105, Mathru Krupa, 3rd Main Road, E-Block, Rajajinagar, Behind Sri Vani School, Bangalore, Karnataka-560010.	**Mrs. Sindhu Suresh Gowda,** Prop. M/s Dwarakamayee Solutions, # No.2769/1, 13th Main, E-Block, 2nd. Stage, Rajaji Nagar, Bangalore-560010.
Mrs. Sindhu Suresh Gowda, Prop. M/s Dwarakamayee Solutions, # 2761, Saisuri Nilaya, 13th Main, E-Block, Rajaji Nagar, 2nd Stage, Bangalore-560010.	**Mr. Suresh Gowda, Guarantor, M/s Dwarakamayee Solutions,** # No. 1129, Kiana Kunja, Ground Floor, 11th. Cross Nagapura, Main Road, Mahalakshmipura-560086.	**Mr. Suresh Gowda, Guarantor,** M/s Dwarakamayee Solutions, # No.100A, Ground Floor, 19th Main, 1st Block, Rajaji Nagar, Bangalore-560010.
Mr. Suresh Gowda, Guarantor, M/s Dwarakamayee Solutions, # No.2789, 13th Main Road, E-Block, Rajajinagar, 2nd. Stage, Bangalore.	**Mr. Suresh Gowda, Guarantor, M/s Dwarakamayee Solutions,** # No. 2616, 4th Floor, Sai Samruddhi, 11th Main, E-Block, 2nd. Stage, Rajaji Nagar, Bangalore North, Adakamaranahalli-560010.	**Mr. Suresh Gowda, Guarantor, M/s Dwarakamayee Solutions,** # 290/09, 2nd Floor, 8th Main, "A" Block, 2nd Stage, Malleshwara West, Bangalore-560055.
Mr. Suresh Gowda, Guarantor, M/s Dwarakamayee Solutions, # No.1105, Mathru Krupa, 3rd Main Road, E-Block, Rajajinagar, Behind Sri Vani School, Bangalore, Karnataka-560010.	**Mr. Suresh Gowda, Guarantor, M/s Dwarakamayee Solutions,** # No.2769, 13th Main Road, E-Block, Rajajinagar, 2nd Stage, Bangalore.	**Mr. Suresh Gowda, Guarantor, M/s Dwarakamayee Solutions,** # 233, 1st. "A" Main Road, 12th "A" Cross, WOCR, Rajajinagar, Bangalore.
Mr. Suresh Gowda, Guarantor, M/s Dwarakamayee Solutions, # Pristine Enterprises, No. 1129, 11th. Cross, WOC Road, 2nd. Stage, Mahalakshmipuram, Bangalore-560086.	**Mr. Deepak M R, Guarantor, M/s Dwarakamayee Solutions,** # No.20, 1st. Floor, Sankey Road, Next Nandi NI, Bangalore-560098.	**Mr. Deepak M R, Guarantor, M/s Dwarakamayee Solutions,** # 145, 60 Ft. Rd., BEML, 5th Stage, Rajarajeshwari Nagar, Bangalore-560098.
Mr. Deepak M.R, S/o Sri M.D Ramashetty, Guarantor, M/s Dwarakamayee Solutions, # Flat No.FF 3, S.G.Shigh Land, BEML, 5th Stage, Rajarajeshwari Nagar, Bangalore-560098.	**Mr. Deepak M.R, S/o Sri M.D.Ramashetty, Guarantor, M/s Dwarakamayee Solutions,** # Plot No.17, 2nd Floor, Dwaraka Heights, Madhapur, Hitech City, Jubilee Hills, Hyderabad-500081.	**Mr. Deepak MR, S/o Sri MD Ramashetty, Guarantor, M/s Dwarakamayee Solutions,** # Cubatic Infra & Power Pvt. Ltd, 2nd. Floor, Plot No.17, 2nd. Floor, Dwaraka Heights, Madhapur, Hitech City, Jubilee Hills, Hyderabad-500081.

Sir/ Madam,

Reg: Order dated 06.03.2024 of the Bank's Identification Committee for Identification of Wilful Defaulters passed in its meeting held on 09.02.2024 at PNB, Corporate Office, New Delhi in the account of M/s Dwarakamayee Solutions.

The Identification Committee in its meeting dated 09.02.2024 has identified you as wilful defaulter on the grounds mentioned in order dated 06.03.2024.

The order dated 06.03.2024, which was sent to you by Speed post at the above mentioned address(es) has/have been returned unserved.

You have the option to submit your written representation against the order dated 06.03.2024 of the Identification Committee to the Review Committee headed by MD & CEO of the Bank, within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice, at the following address: **Punjab National Bank, SASTRA Division, Corporate Office, 3rd Floor, Plot No. 4, Sector 10, Dwarka, New Delhi, PIN: 110075.**

You may further note that the complete copy of the order dated 06.03.2024 is available in the office of **Zonal SASTRA Centre, 6-3-865, My Home Jupally, Greenland, Ameerpet, Hyderabad,** which you may collect, if you so desire. The contact person at **Zonal Sastra, Hyderabad.**

Name: Mr. Ramesh Babu Aerra
Chief Manager (Law)
Contact Number: 8586950839

Sd/-
Authorized Signatory

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS
All the news. In just a click.
Log to www.newindianexpress.com
/thenewindianxpress
@newindianxpress
+The New Indian Express
GET IT ON Google Play
Download on the App Store

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

(CONSTRUCTION ORGANISATION)

E-TENDER NOTICE NO. E148-CN-TPJ-TF-040

Dated: 12.04.2024

For and on behalf of President of India, the Deputy Chief Electrical Engineer, General, Construction, Southern Railway, Egmore, Chennai 600008 invites e-tender for the work Karaikal - Peralam Section - Modification to 02 Nos. of HT 11 kV and 03 Nos. of LT Over Head Power Line Crossings by underground cables in Karaikal - Peralam Section - Works Contract, with the above tender notice. Railway cash value is ₹ **4442594.80**/- Date & Time of closing of tender is **06.05.2024 at 11:00 Hrs**. All the other details of this tender are available in **www.ireps.gov.in** website.

AXIS BANK

Plot No. 41, Seshadri Road, Anand Rao Circle, Bangalore-560009

POSSESSION NOTICE **APPENDIX-IV (RULE 8 (1))**

WHEREAS: The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the **AXIS BANK LTD,** Under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act , 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued, a demand notice, dated : **07.03.2023** calling upon the (**1) Mr. M V Venugopal,** No 322, 2nd Cross, Saraswathipuram, Basaveshwara Badavane, Hosapet 583201. **Also At: Mr. M V Venugopal,** 5148, 5th Bock, 15th Floor, Janapriya Bharat Enclave, Magad Main Road, Sonkakatie, Bangalore 560091. **Also At: Mr. M V Venugopal,** Raghav Star Vision, D NO 322, Sreenivasa 2nd Cross, Basaveshwara Badavane, College Road, Bellary 583201. **(Borrwer/Mortgager) 2) Mr. M V Suman Diksha Chary,** 5148, 5th Bock, 15th Floor, Janapriya Bharat Enclave, Magad Main Road, Sonkakatie,Bangalore 560091 **(Co Applicant)** to repay the amount **Rs 46,35,610. /-** (Rupees Forty Six Lakhs Thirty Five Thousand Six Hundred Ten Rupees) mentioned in the notice towards the loan account no's **PHR056102639753. being** the amount due as on **07.03.2023** within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said Act, read with Rule 6 & 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on this **12.04.2024.**

The borrowers in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the **AXIS BANK LTD Rs 46,35,610. /-**(Rupees Forty Six Lakhs Thirty Five Thousand Six Hundred Ten Rupees) being the amount due as on **07.03.2023** and interest thereon.

The borrower's attention is invited to the provisions of Sub Section (8) of Section 13 of the SARFAESI Act, 2002 in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

DESCRIPTION OF MORTGAGED PROPERTY

SCHEDULE PROPERTY : All That Pieceand Parcel Of The Property Bearingsite No 1440, 7th Block Siv M Venkateshwarai Layout Bda Banglore 560068 Sq.ft: 581.251 Admesuring Bounded As Follows : East By: Private Property, West By: Road, North By : Site Bearing Sy No 1439, South By:– Site Bearing Sy No 1441

For any clarification, please contact Mr Thrimoorthy - 9036773553

Date : 12.04.2024
Place : Bangalore

Sd/- Authorised Officer
Axis Bank Ltd.

RAIL COACH FACTORY, KAPURTHALA

On-line Tenders are invited by PCMM/RCF on behalf of President of India for the following items:-

Sr. No.	Tender No. & Due Date	Description	Qty. (Nos./Sets)	EMD (₹)
1.	13245007A 06/05/2024	EOT CRANE 5 TON as per specification No. Mech/ M&P/ 3800/ GM/09 Rev-03. **[Warranty Period:** 30 Months after the date of delivery]. **PL No.: 651006820018**	01 Nos.	74,000/-
2.	13235109B 06/05/2024	EOT Crane Cap. 10 Ton as per specification No. Mech/ M&P/ 3700/ GM/07 Rev-05. **[Warranty Period:** 30 Months after the date of delivery]. **PL No.: 651000690010**	04 Nos.	3,65,200/-
3.	13245028A 06/05/2024	(a) Bio-metric Attendance Machines (b) 3.7V Li-ion Battery (c) Installation Charges	88 Nos. 352 Nos. 88 Nos.	1,63,650/-
4.	17241135 13/05/2024	Roof Ceiling Arrgt. for LHB SCN EOG coaches 80 Berther with wider window	497 Set	20,00,000/-
		Set of FRP Ceiling Panels for LHB GS Coaches	957 Set	
		Set of FRP Sidewall Panels for LHB GS Coaches	943 Set	
		Set of side Wall Panels for LHB SCN Coach with Honey Comb partition frames	493 Set	
5.	12241128 06/05/2024	Fixing arrangement of FRP water tank Flaps for LHB SCN wider window coaches	1238 Set	1,28,550/-
6.	12241115 15/05/2024	Aluminium Profile L=2350 MM, as per Drawing: LA10131 ALT a	13318 Kg	1,19,360/-
		AL. Profile, as per Drawing: UN43103 ALT a	6529 Kg	
7.	17241088 08/05/2024	Set of pillar Assembly for AC 3- Tier (EOG) LHB Coaches	256 Set	20,00,000/-
		Set of pillar Asly for LHB SCN Coach with Honeycomb	488 Set	
		Set of pillar Assly for LHB AC 2-Tier Coaches	56 Set	
8.	12241024A 08/05/2024	Set of Retention Tank for 3-Phase Memu/TC Coaches	146 Set	5,75,870/-
9.	02241176 06/05/2024	60 KVA Transformer, as per Drawing: RDSO/PE/SPEC/AC/ 0080-2007, (Rev-2), Packing Instruction: ALTERNATOR, RRU, ERRU	611 Nos.	20,00,000/-
		9 KVA Transformer 750V/415V/ 190V AC, 3-Phase, Star-Star-Star, Dry Type, Air Cooled for LHB Type Coaches	1286 Nos.	
10.	02241170 06/05/2024	Feeder Junction Box for Power Car & LSLRD Coaches, as per Drawing: EDTS328 REV-C, AM-7, COR. 3 (Type 3)	116 Set	20,00,000/-
		Feeder Junction Box for LHB Coach with BIO Toilet, as per Drawing: EDTS328 Rev-C, AM-7. Type-2	1759 Set	
11.	05241209 08/05/2024	Flat Roof Assembly	67 Nos.	1,88,160/-

1. For details and making On-line tenders, visit Website **http://ireps.gov.in.** Drawings/ specifications, wherever required can be downloaded from RCF Website **http://www.rcf.indianrailways.gov.in.** Class IIIb digital signature certificate required for on-line bidding, can be obtained from licensed certifying agencies listed at **http://www.cce.gov.in.** 2. Tenders will close at 14.25 Hrs. on due date and will be opened at 14.30 Hrs. Tenders Sr. No. 1 to 10 will be opened at RCF Kapurthala and Sr. No. 11 will be opened at Tilak Bridge, New Delhi. 3. For queries, contact IREPS Helpdesk at 011-24102855, 011-24105180 or RCF helpdesk at 011-23378658.

Note: GST Number of RCF is 03AAAGM0289C1ZT. All the suppliers are advised to quote this in dispatch documents for the supplies made by them.

PCMM

CORRIGENDUM

The following amendment is authorized against **(1)** Tender No. **02241093** regarding High Capacity Inter Vehical Coupler Quantity to be read as 82 sets instead of 39 sets, Earnest Money to be read as Rs.7,62,470/- instead of Rs.3,62,640/- and due date to be read as 22.04.2024 instead of 12.04.2024. **(2)** Tender No. **07241034** due date to be read as 22.04.2024 instead of 10.04.2024. **(3)** Tender No. **17231585** due on 12.04.2024 for procurement of Supply and Apply of Set of Roller Blind Arrangement for LHB First AC Coaches, due date to be read as 19.04.2024 instead of 12.04.2024. **(4)** Tender No. **13235423A** due on 15.04.2024 for procurement of EOT Crane Cap. 20 Ton as per spec. No. Mech/M&P/3800/03 Rev-04, due date to be read as 25.04.2024 instead of 15.04.2024. **(5)** Tender No. **01241075** for Fully Assembled improved Bogies compatible with IR-LHB Coaches (+2 items), due date to be read as 25.04.2024 instead of 10.04.2024. **(6)** Tender No. **14241002** due date to be read as 22.04.2024 instead of 12.04.2024. **(7)** Tender No. **14231255** due date to be read as 22.04.2024 instead of 11.04.2024. **(8)** Tender No. **14231273** due date to be read as 15.04.2024 instead of 11.04.2024.

All other terms and conditions will remain the same.

PCMM

R.O. No.: 006-S/2024-25 **Dated: 13.04.2024**

QuoteExpress
WITHOUT HARD WORK, NOTHING GROWS BUT WEEDS › GORDON B HINCKLEY

PUBLIC NOTICE

FOR PURCHASE OF PROPERTY

NOTICE is hereby given that **M/S Neeladri Properties** is willing to sell the schedule property in favour of my Clients **Mr. Bhanu Prakash Gudiyatham and Mrs. Vani Kummara** free from all encumbrances. Any person having any right, title, interest, claim or demand of any nature whatsoever in respect of the said property, is hereby required to make the same known in writing along with the documentary proof thereof, to the below mentioned his Counsel Mr.RADESH.K, Office at Third Floor, Above Favara Car World, SMN Complex, Whitefield Main Road, Thubarahalli, Bangalore. within 07 days from the date of publication hereof, failing which the negotiations shall be completed, without any reference to such claims and the claims if any, shall be deemed to have been given up or waived.

SCHEDULE:

All that piece and parcel of the Residential Apartment bearing Flat No. FF-159 in First Floor in B Block 3 BHK Unit and having Super built up area of 1150 Square Feet, and carpet area of 757 Square Feet, in the Project "NEELADRI SAROVARAM", constructed on the Property bearing Sy No: 8/2 measuring 28.04 Guntas, Sy No: 8/3 measuring 30.12 Guntas, Sy No: 8/4 measuring 1 Acre 19.08 Guntas and Sy No: 7/2 measuring 10 Guntas, Situated at Varthur Village, Varthur Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk.

Contact : **Mr. RADESH BE,** LL.B, LL.M
Director- MKM Legal Solutions Pvt Ltd.
e-mail id: radesh@mkmlegalsolutions.com
Contact No: +91 8618833672

PUBLIC NOTICE

One of our Clients intend to purchase all that piece and parcel of Commercial Property bearing **New Municipal No. 72,** having **BBMP PID No. 76-15-72** (Old Nos. 72 & 73, earlier 15-B & 15-B/1), situated at **Residency Road,** Ward No. 76, Richmond Town, Bangalore – 560 025, in all **measuring 9,023 Square Feet** (838.25 Square Meters) together with **RCC Building** measuring in all **18,720 Square Feet** (1,739.14 Square Meters), having all basic amenities therein, as described in the **Schedule** hereunder and hereinafter referred as **'Schedule Property'** belonging to **M/s Supraja Properties Private Limited ["Owners"].**

Any person or persons, entities including any bank/societies/financial institutions, companies, asserting any claim, right, title or interest of any kind whatsoever including mortgage/charge/encumbrance/demand over the Schedule Property or any part thereof, in any manner whatsoever whether by way of sale, transfer, assignment, exchange, charge, encumbrance, tenancy, sub tenancy, lease, license, mortgage, inheritance, share, gift, devise, lien, maintenance, bequeath, easement, trust, covenant, possession or otherwise of any nature whatsoever or having any claim in the Schedule Property or any documents relating thereto or against the Owner/s or objecting to sale or any transactions by the Owners, should write to the undersigned within **fifteen (15) days** from the date of this Public Notice, together with documentary proof thereof, failing which, the claim or claims, if any, of such person or person/s over the Schedule Property or any part thereof shall be considered to have been waived and/or abandoned and no such claims will be deemed to exist and our Client shall proceed to purchase the Schedule Property, without any impediments.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

ALL THAT piece and parcel of the Commercial Property bearing **New Municipal No. 72,** having BBMP PID No. 76-15-72 (Old Nos. 72 & 73, earlier 15-B & 15-B/1), situated at **Residency Road,** Ward No. 76, Richmond Town, Bangalore - 560 025, in all measuring **9,023 Square Feet** (838.25 Square Meters) together with RCC Building measuring in all **18,720 Square Feet** (1,739.14 Square Meters), having all basic amenities therein, and butted and bounded, that is to say, as follows:

On the East by : Property No. 74, Residency Road;
On the West by : Residency Cross Road;
On the North by : Property No. 71, Residency Road; and
On the South by : Property No. 74, Residency Road.

Dated this 12th day of April 2024.

Through its Advocates
Partha Mandal, Founding Partner
IC UNIVERSAL LEGAL LLP
Advocates & Solicitors
5th Floor, 'Phoenix Pinnacle' # 46, Ulsoor Road Bangalore - 560 042.
Phone:- +91 80 6761 6000

PUBLIC NOTICE

I hereby inform the General Public that, My Clients R.Surendra, R.Sumitra and R.Jagadish intend to purchase the below mentioned schedule property from Smt. Thota Kanaka Durga, R/at No. L-29, Srila Park Pride, HMW SSB Road, Near Kalwari Temple, Hyder Nagar, Tirumalagiri, Miyapura, Hyderabad, Andhrapradesh-500049 and her children Sri.Thota Sridhar, Smt.Thota Deepti Rao and Sri.Thota Ravindra, represented to be the absolute owners in exclusive possession & enjoyment of the Schedule property having inherited the same upon the demise of Late. Dr.Thota Hanumantha Rao being his legal heirs and successors and further represented that except them no other person/s have any right, title or interest in the Schedule property.

If any person/s, Society or any other body has any claim, right, title or interest in the Schedule property of whatsoever nature or any objection to the purchase of the Schedule property by My Clients, he/she/it may lodge his/her/its claim along with documentary proof to the undersigned within Seven days from the date of publication of this Notice. Failing which, My Clients would presume that there is no impediment for purchase of the Schedule property and would proceed to complete the sale transaction.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of Residential Vacant Site No. 209, BBMP No. 6052/209, measuring East to West 80ft , North to South 50ft, totally measuring 4000 sq.ft., situated in the BEML 3rd Stage, a layout formed by The BEML Employees House Building Co-Operative Society Ltd., in the lands in Sy. Nos. 77 to 90, 105 to 119/1, 5, 4 to 122, 147 to 165 & 273 of Alagevaderahalli, Kengeri Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluku, Bengaluru -560098, presently falls within the limits of BBMP-Rajarajeshwarinagara Ward -160, and bounded on East by : Site No. 220, West by: Road, North by: Site No. 208, South by:Site No. 210

Address of the Advocates
N.Lakshmipathy, Advocate
#113, 3rd Floor, C.M.Mansion
Hospital Road, Avenue Road Cross
Bengaluru-560053. Mob- 9449343920

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client, Srinivasa.A.T. s/o Sri.Thimme Gowda, Aadhar Card No. 8793 3059, 0845 resident of No.18, 2nd Cross Road, Gnana ganga Nagar, Kengeri Main Road, Bangalore 560 056, represents to me, that he acquired vacant site No.127, V.P. katha No.238/127, Adarshnagar Layout, Arasina -kunte village, Nelamanagala Taluk, measuring totally 111.48 sq. meters, under Regd. sale deed dated 01.02.2017 Regd. as No.9929 of 2016-17, and stored in C.D.No.NMGD.380 from one Sri.Bharamappa. A.Mugdum, regd. in the O/o Sub Registrar, Nelamangala.

That Sri.Bharamappa.A.Mugdum had acquired from one Sri.K.B. Lakshman, and Sri.K.B.Lakshman had acquired under Registered Sale deed dated 30.06.2004 from Smt.Subhadra Hedge w/o late Sri. Ramachandra Hegde. Sri.Ramachandra Hedge had acquired the same, under a Regd. sale deed dated 09.10.1991, Regd No.1581 of 1991-92. Sri. Ramachandra Hedge s/o Sri.Venkappa Hedge died on 21.01.1995, leaving behind his wife Smt.Subhadra Hedge as his only surviving Legal heir, since they had no issues. Smt.Subhadra Hegde had sold the aforesaid site in favour of Sri.K.B.Lakshman by providing a copy of death Certificate of Sri.Ramachandra Hegde and an Affidavit regarding the family tree. Since they had no children/issues, she was the only surviving legal heir. Affidavit dated 30.06.2004 which had been duly sworn to by the Smt.Subhdra Hegde is not found now in the documents of title and the Original Affidavit dated 30.06.2004 by the said Smt.Subhadra Hege pertaining to the genealogical tree is not traced and has been lost and/or misplaced. If anybody have found and/or in possession of the said Affidavit, they return to the undersigned. Further if any one has any claim, or interest over the said property, they may submit their claim, supported by document/s, within ten days, failing which my client shall proceed to alienate/deal with the property on the strength of the Affidavit by him dt.08.11.2024, claims, if any, received thereafter shall not be binding on my client.

S.Krishna Prasad, Advocate,
No.238/46, Adarshnagar layout
Arasinakunte:562 123, NLA Taluk.
Mob.No.98442 37482. Date:12.04.2024

SOUTH INDIAN Bank

CIN: L65191KL1929PLC001017

Regional Office: SIB Arcade, #61, Wheeler Road, Cox Town, Bangalore – 560 005. Tel./ Fax No: +91 80-25479091 / 92
E-mail: ro1010@sib.co.in.
Website: www.southindianbank.com

Ref:RO/BANG/REC/08/24-25 **Date:12.04.2024**

E - AUCTION SALE NOTICE

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of movable properties as per the direction of the Hon'ble Debts Recovery Tribunal-II, Chennai in I.A no. 163/2024 in I.A. No 522/2020 in T.A. 572 /2023 (O.A. No. 310/2020)

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the borrower/guarantor that the below described movable property mortgaged to the South Indian Bank Ltd, Branch Mumbai Corporate (Secured Creditor), the Actual Possession of which was taken on various dates by M/s The South Indian Bank Limited, Regional Office at No.61, SIB Arcade, Wheeler Road, Cox Town, Bangalore – 560006, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on **20.04.2024** for recovery of an amount of **Rs. 38,90,19,224.00 (Rupees Thirty Eight Crore Ninety Lakh Nineteen Thousand Two Hundred Twenty Four Only)** as on **29.07.2020** due to M/s The South Indian Bank Limited, Mumbai Corporate Branch, from borrower **M/s Inshape Health and Fitnez Private Limited,** having its Registered office at No.64/1 Arcot Road, Alwarthirunagar Annex, Alwarthirunagar, Chennai – 600 087 and guarantor **M/s Talwalkars Better Value Fitness Limited,** Registered office at No.801, Mahalakshmi Chambers,No.22, Bhulabhai Desai Road, Mumbai – 400 026

DESCRIPTION OF THE MOVABLE PROPERTIES

Description of property : Used Gym Equipment, **Location from where equipment were taken custody :** Anjananagar, Hegganahalli, Laggere, Vidyaranyapura, Electronic City, T C Palya, Nagarbhavi, Hennur, Virgo Nagar, Brookfield. Name of Property Owner : M/s Inshape Health and Fitnez Private Limited.

Reserve Price	**Rs.20,00,000.00** (Rupees Twenty Lakh Only)
Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	**Rs.2,00,000.00** (Rupees Two Lakh Only) EMD shall be deposited on or before **19.04.2024** till **4.00 PM**
Bid Increment amount	**Rs.10,000.00** (Rupees Ten Thousand Only)
Date and time of E-auction	**20.04.2024** from **11.00 AM** (with 5 minute unlimited auto extensions till sale is concluded)
Encumbrances known to the Bank	Nil

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in web portal of South Indian Bank Ltd, (Secured Creditor) website i.e. **www.southindianbank.com.** Details also available at **https://bankauctions.in**

For any further clarification with regards to inspection of property, terms and conditions of the e-auction or submission of bids, kindly contact South Indian Bank Ltd on **9740650297**

Date : 12.04.2024
Place : Bangalore

Sd/- (Chief Manager)
The South Indian Bank Ltd.

SHRIRAM FINANCE LIMITED

Registered Office : Sri Towers, Plot No.14A, South Phase, Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai-600 032.
Branch Office: D.No.26-2-7, 2nd Floor, Padmavathi Plaza, Beside Canara Bank, A.K.Nagar, Nellore (Dt).

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

We **M/s Shriram Finance Limited (formerly known as "Shriram City Union Finance Limited"** Amalgamated with **Shriram Transport Finance Limited** and converted as **Shriram Transport Finance Limited** as per the orders of **NCLT Bench-II Chennai dated 09.11.2022)** and thereafter obtained the approval to rename as **Shriram Finance Ltd. (Ministry of Corporate Finance letter dated 30.11.2022)**, is a company registered under the Companies Act, 2013 and also registered with RBI to do Non-Banking Finance business having its registered office at **Sri Towers, Plat No.14A, South Phase, Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai-600032.**

Where as, the undersigned being the authorised officer of Shriram Finance Limited (SFL) under the provisions of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (said Act) and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 (said Rules) issued demand notices to the Borrowers details of which are mentioned in the table below to repay the amount mentioned in the said demand notices.

The Borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken **Symbolic Possession** of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the said Rules, on this **12.04.2024.**

Borrower Name and Address:

1.N.Vijaya Krishna, S/o N.Malakondaiah, R/o No.C-2, Lakshmi Residency, 1st Cross, Akshaya Shetty Layout, Sada Siva Nagar, Bangalore, Karnataka -560080.
2.Y.Jaya Rami Reddy, S/o Yekollu Rama Krishna Reddy, D.No.303, IIIrd Floor, Auditya Crystals, Auditya Nagar, Nellore city, Nellore Dist-524002.
3.N.Vijaya, W/o N.Vijaya Krishna, R/o No.C-2, Lakshmi Residency, 1st Cross, Akshaya Shetty Layout, Sada Siva Nagar, Banglore, Karnataka- 560080.

Amount due as per Demand Notice To pay: Rs.17,74,89,205/- (Seventeen Crores Seventy Four Lakhs Eighty Nine Thousand Two Hundred and Five Rupees Only) A/c No: NELL3TF1203270004
Amount due as per Demand Notice To pay: Rs.9,00,03,857/- (Nine Crores Three Thousand Eight Hundred and Fifty Seven Rupees Only) A/c No: NELL3TF1207180006 Date Of Demand Notice: 30.10.2023
Possession Taken on: 12-04-2024

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

Schedule-I: (As per registered Doc.No.200/1999, Dt.11-03-1999) Nellore District, Buchireddypalem Sub-District, Buchireddypalem Gram Panchayath and village Accounts, Hamlet of Vavveru, Sy.no.46/1, 46/2, and 61/C, ward No.6, Block No.13, Kothakasipalem Street, site measuring 150 ft length and 57.5 ft width total extent of 120 Ankanams or 960 sq.yards or 802.80 sq.mts., (This site is situated on the north side of the Door No.13-193 house) **bounded on: East:** Wall of Shaik Khaza Mohiddin, **West:** Site of Nallagondla Vijaya Krishna, **North:** Site retained by Katamreddy Malla Reddy, **South:** Site of Nallagonda Vijaya Krishna.

Schedule-II: (As per registered Doc.No.74/2003, Dt.22-01-2003) Nellore District, Buchireddypalem Sub-District, Buchireddypalem Gram Panchayath and village Accounts, Hamlet of Vavveru, Sy.no.61, Ward No.6, Block No.13, on the southern row of Bombay Road in between Jameel mahal to Mohalla Mahal on eastern side of Door No.B-13-11 site measuring East to West on northern side 9 ½ ft., East to West on southern side 15 ft North to South on both the sides 52 ½ ft total extent of 9 Ankanams or 72 sq.yards, **bounded on the: East:** Wall of Shaik Khaza Mohiddin, **West:** House of Munaga Venkatesham Setty, **North:** Bombay Road, **South:** Wall of Nallagondla Vijay Krishna.

Schedule-III: (As per registered Doc.No.192/1999, Dt.10-03-1999) Nellore District, Buchireddypalem Sub-District, Buchireddypalem Gram Panchayath and village Accounts, Hamlet of Vavveru, Sy.no.46/1, 46/2, and 61/C, Ward No.6, Block No.13-193 near Kothakasipalem Street, site measuring 150 ft length and 57.5 ft width total extent of 120 Ankanams or 960 sq.yards or 802.80 sq.mts., **bounded on the: East:** Wall of Shaik Khaza Mohiddin, **West:** Site of Nallagondla Vijaya Krishna, **North:** Site retained by Katamreddy Malla Reddy, **South:** Site of Nallagondla Vijaya Krishna.

Schedule-IV: (As per registered Doc.No.213/1999, Dt.13-03-1999) Nellore District, Buchireddypalem Sub-District, Buchireddypalem Gram Panchayath and village Accounts, Hamlet of Vavveru, Sy.no.46/1, 46/2, and 61/C, Ward No.6, Block No.13, on the northern side of B-13-192, Kothakasipalem Street, site measuring 150 ft length and 56.5 ft width total extent of 117 ¾ Ankanams or 942 sq.yards or 789.42 sq.mts., **bounded on the: East:** Wall of Shaik Khaza Mohiddin, **West:** Site of Nallagondla Vijaya Krishna, **North:** Site of Nallagondla Vijaya Krishna, **South:** Site of Nallagondla Vijaya Krishna.

Schedule-V: (As per registered Doc.No.202/1999, Dt.11-03-1999) Nellore District, Buchireddypalem Sub-District, Buchireddypalem Gram Panchayath and village Accounts, Hamlet of Vavveru S.no.61, Ward No.6, Block No.13, on the southern row of Bombaby Road, Door No.B-13-5, Sheet roofed House and site, measuring 70 ft length and 15 ft width or 14 Ankanams 42 sq.ft or 117 sq.yards or 97 sq.mts., in that 1050 sq.ft Sheet Roofed Building with HSC No.528 **bounded on the: East:** Way site left over for ingress and egress, **West:** House site of Bondili Balaram Singh, **North:** Bombay Road, **South:** Property of Nallagondal Vijay Krishna.

Schedule-VI: (As per registered Doc.No.165/1999, Dt.06-03-1999) Nellore District, Buchireddypalem Sub-District, Buchireddypalem Gram Panchayath and village Accounts, Hamlet of Vavveru Sy.No.46/1, 46/2 and 61/C, Ward No.6, Block No.13, Kothakasipalem Street, on the northern side of Door No.B-13-192, site measuring 120 ft length and 72 ft width total extent of 120 Anknams or 960 sq.yards or 802.80 sq.mts., **bounded on the: East:** Wall of Shaik Khaza Mohiddin, **West:** Land retained by Katameddy Bala Sankar Reddy, **North:** Land retained by katameddy Bala Sankar Reddy, **South:** Site of Nallagondla Vijaya Krishna.

Schedule-VII: (As per registered Doc.No.214/1999, Dt.15-03-1999) Nellore District, Buchireddypalem Sub-District, Buchireddypalem Gram Panchayath and village Accounts, Hamlet of Vavveru, Sy.No.46/1, 46/2 and 61/C, Ward No.6, Block No.13, Kothakasipalem Street, on the northern side of Door No.B-13-192, (1) site measuring 80 ft length and 70 ft width total extent of 77 3/4 Anknams or 622 1/4 sq.yards or 520.33 sq.mts., **bounded on the: East:** Land of Nallagondala Vijaya Krishna, **West:** Site of Sons of Shaik Imam Saheb and Others, **North:** Land of Nallagondala Vijaya Krishna, **South:** Site of Nallagondla Vijaya Krishna. (2) site measuring 59 ft length and 32 ft width total extent of 26 1/4 Ankanams or 210 sq.yards or 148.85 sq.mts., **bounded on: East:** Land of Nallagondala Vijaya Krishna, **West:** Site of Sons of Shaik Imam Saheb and Others, **North:** Wall of Bondili Balaji Singh and Others, **South:** Site of Nallagondla Vijaya Krishna

Schedule-VIII: (As per registered Doc.No.201/1999, Dt.11-03-1999) Nellore District, Buchireddypalem Sub-District, Buchireddypalem Gram Panchayath and village Accounts, Hamlet of Vavveru S.No.61, Ward No.6 Block No.6, Block No.13, on the southern row of Bombay Road, Door No.B-13-10-1 to 7, site measuring 52 ft length and 18 ft width or 13 Ankanams or 104 sq.yards, or 86.97 sq.mts., **bounded on the: East:** House of Munaga Prasad Raod and Others, **West:** Way site left over for ingress and egress, **North:** Bombay Road, **South:** Property of Nallagondla Vijay Krishna.

All the above Schedule Properties are in the name of **N.VIJAYA KRISHNA ,S/O N.MALAKONDAIAH**

This notice is also hereby to caution the general public at large that the **authorized officer of SFL** is in the lawful **Symbolic Possession** of the immovable property mentioned herein above and the Borrowers or any person shall not after receipt of this notice transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise deal with/ alienate any of the above mentioned secured assets referred to in this notice, without prior written consent of SFL.

Place: Nellore, Date: 12.04.2024 **Sd/- Authorized Officer, SHRIRAM FINANCE LTD**

THE NEW
SUNDAY EXPRESS

BENGALURU • SUNDAY • APRIL 14, 2024 • ₹12.00 • PAGES 28 • LATE CITY EDITION

6 dead as knife-wielding man goes on stabbing spree in Sydney

Five women and a man died and 8 others, including a nine-month-old baby, were injured in an attack at a busy Sydney shopping centre on Saturday. A 40-year-old man began stabbing people at the Sydney's sprawling Westfield Bondi Junction mall complex, which was packed with thousands of shoppers before a police inspector shot him fatally. P13

CHENNAI ▪ MADURAI ▪ VIJAYAWADA ▪ BENGALURU ▪ KOCHI ▪ HYDERABAD ▪ VISAKHAPATNAM ▪ COIMBATORE ▪ KOZHIKODE ▪ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM ▪ BELAGAVI ▪ BHUBANESWAR ▪ SHIVAMOGGA ▪ MANGALURU ▪ TIRUPATI ▪ TIRUCHY ▪ TIRUNELVELI ▪ SAMBALPUR ▪ HUBBALLI ▪ DHARMAPURI ▪ KOTTAYAM ▪ KANNUR ▪ VILLUPURAM ▪ KOLLAM ▪ TADEPALLIGUDEM ▪ NAGAPATTINAM ▪ THRISSUR ▪ KALABURAGI

Once Again
Modi Sarkar
Serving the Poor
4+ crore houses built,
Guarantee of housing for all
Right Intent, Right Results
THIS IS MODI'S GUARANTEE
Press the lotus button
Make BJP win
Published by: Bharatiya Janata Party
6-A, Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Marg, New Delhi

CBI BOOKS BJP'S TOP DONOR MEIL IN GRAFT CASE

FIR says firm paid ₹78 lakh to officials to get bills worth ₹174 cr cleared

MUKESH RANJAN @ New Delhi

THE Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has registered an FIR against Hyderabad-based Megha Engineering and Infrastructure Ltd (MEIL), which was the biggest donor of electoral bonds to the BJP at ₹586 crore, in an alleged bribery case. In the FIR, seen by TNIE, the CBI has also named eight officials of the NISP and NMDC and two officials of MECON. The FIR alleges the officials received bribes of ₹78 lakh for clearing MEIL's bills worth ₹174 crore in connection with works related to Chhattisgarh's Jagdalpur integrated steel plant.

According to the electoral bonds data released by the Election Commission following a Supreme Court ruling, MEIl was the second biggest buyer of electoral bonds at ₹966 crore. Apart from contributing to the BJP, the firm also donated ₹195 crore to the BRS, ₹85 crore to DMK, and ₹37 crore to YSRCP. The TDP got about ₹25 crore from the company, while the Congress got ₹17 crore. The JD-S, Jana Sena Party and the JD-U got smaller sums ranging from ₹5 crore to ₹10 crore.

In the FIR, the CBI has said it had registered a preliminary enquiry (PE) on August 10, 2023 regarding the alleged bribery in ₹315 crore project related to works of intake well and pump house and cross-country pipeline at the integrated steel plant of the NMDC in Jagdalpur, which was awarded to the company.

"Based on the findings of the PE, a recommendation was made on March 18 to register a regular case into the alleged bribery which was filed on March 31," the CBI FIR read.

The CBI has named eight officials of NISP and NMDC Ltd — retired executive director Prashant Dash; director (production) D K Mohanty; deputy general manager P K Bhuyan; D M Naresh Babu; senior manager Subro Banerjee; retired CGM (finance) L Krishna Mohan; general manager (finance) K Rajshekhar; and manager (finance) Somnath Ghosh, who allegedly received ₹73.85 lakh in bribe.

Preliminary enquiry filed in Aug 2023

According to the FIR made public on Saturday, CBI had registered a preliminary enquiry on August 10, 2023 about alleged bribery in ₹315 crore project related to works at the integrated steel plant Jagdalpur in Chhattisgarh

Tamil vs Thamizh in spirited south Chennai fight

SUBASHINI VIJAYAKUMAR @ Chennai

ON March 20, Tamilisai Soundararajan entered the state headquarters of the BJP, Kamalalayam, after a gap of nearly five years, to rejoin the party. After collecting her membership card, she said in her booming voice, "*Tamizhagathil Thamarai Malarum, Malarndhe Theerum*" (Lotus will bloom in Tamil Nadu, it will inevitably bloom), revitalising a catchphrase she popularised when she was the party's state president from 2014 to 2019.

However, the bloom is yet to happen. Tamil Nadu has eluded the BJP so far with the party winning only eight MP seats out of the 105 Lok Sabha contests since 1984. Seven of these victories were thanks to its alliance with either the AIADMK or the DMK.

SHOWTIME FOR GLADIATORS

Two days before she rejoined the party, Tamilisai resigned as the Governor of Telangana and Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry, a move that surprised many and signalled the BJP's intentions to field its heavyweights in key constituencies to turn the tide in this Lok Sabha election.

Despite losing the AIADMK from its alliance, the BJP is hopeful of significantly increasing its vote share, owing to the growth the party believes it has achieved in the Dravidian land in recent years. P7

₹1.4 cr seized from brand new Mercedes

RAKSHITH GOWDA @ Bengaluru

MEMBERS of the Flying Surveillance Team (FST) and police seized unaccounted cash of Rs 1.4 crore from a brand new Mercedes-Benz car near Ganesha Temple, just a stone's throw away from Jayanagar police station, on Saturday. On receiving information from her higher-ups around 11.15 am, Nikitha M Chinnaswamy, MCC nodal officer, along with FST and police personnel rushed to 32nd Cross, 7th Main Road, Jayanagar, where the Mercedes-Benz car, which is yet to be registered, and a Volkswagen car were parked. Noticing some bags inside the Mercedes-Benz, Nikitha questioned its occupants. P7

EXPRESS INTAKE

Cong manifesto axed CAA in last hour | P9

Iran seizes Israel-linked cargo vessel with 17 Indians | P11

HOSMAT HOSPITALS - BANGALORE

Orthopaedics, Accidents, Injuries, Spine/Neuro & Plastic Surgery Hospital

HOSMAT HOSPITALS
Your Life Matters

HOSMAT Hospitals, established in 1993, is one of the first major private trauma and orthopaedic hospitals in India, and the first in Bengaluru. Dr Thomas Chandy, Orthopaedic Surgeon, started the hospital after years of specialised orthopaedic training, and as a consultant. He was running a successful orthopaedic practice, as Chief of Orthopaedics in Tulsa Oklahoma USA. The original HOSMAT Hospital was founded with high American standards, which the organization strives to maintain to this day. With 3 Orthopaedic hospitals in Bangalore today, HOSMAT is one the largest, and one of the best equipped, group of Orthopaedic hospitals in India, having 550 beds and 28 operation theatres. In 30 years, HOSMAT has treated over 16 lakh-satisfied patients. It is one of the premier Orthopaedic specialities hospitals, with knee/hip/shoulder replacement, Arthroscopy (Key Hole Surgery) - Knee & Shoulder, Ligaments. Spine, Hand, Children Orthopaedics. All orthopaedic specialties and other departments as below

THE WEEK 10-12-2023
National Survey Best Hospitals
Specialisation - Orthopaedics
2nd in Bengaluru
7th in South India
18th Best Hospital in India

HEALTH CARE SURVEY
BEST HOSPITALS NATIONAL

HOSMAT Hospital at Sadashivanagar
is now fully open
Neuro Surgery, Spine (Back & Neck) & Brain

3rd Generation latest Cuvis Robotic Knee Replacement

Our Expertise
• Orthopaedics • Accident & Injuries • Complex Fractures • Joint Replacement • Arthroscopy & Ligaments • Neurology & Brain
• Spine Surgery • Hand Surgery • Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery • Foot & Ankle Surgery • Avascular necrosis (AVN) • Rheumatology
• Urology • Laparoscopic & GI Surgery • Bone Cancer • Dental & Maxillofacial Surgery • Dental Implant Centre • Ilizarov-Leg Lengthening
• Paediatric Orthopaedics • Surgery for Spastics & Children's Orthopaedics, Neurology & Hand Problems • Internal Medicine • ENT
• Pulmonology • Physiotherapy • Orthotics & Prosthetics (Braces & Artificial Limbs) • Varicose Veins - Non Invasive Surgery. (At Kalyan Nagar)
• Recuperation/Rehabilitation Centre for Orthopaedic Neuro/Stroke • First hospital in Bangalore to have homecare services since 1992

Our Services
• 24/7 Accident & Trauma Care • 24/7 Ambulance
• 24/7 Pharmacy • 24/7 X-Ray, CT Scan
• 24/7 Laboratory Services

HOSMAT Hospitals - Sadashivanagar
#18, Bellary Road, Sadashivanagar,
Bengaluru, Karnataka 560080
080-69575555 / +91 81474 00755

HOSMAT Hospitals - Magrath Road
45, Magrath Rd, Bengaluru,
Karnataka 560025
080-25593796 / +91 91084 50310

HOSMAT Hospitals - Kalyan Nagar
No. 1, Hennur Cross, Kalyan Nagar,
Bengaluru, Karnataka 560043
080-45332400 / +91 96637 06440

www.hosmathospitals.com
info@hosmathospitals.com

ALMANAC TODAY

• **Sunday:** 14.04.2024 • **Year:** Shobhakruta • **Ayana:** Uttharayana • **Ritu:** Vasantha • **Masa:** Chaitra • **Paksha:** Shukla • **Tithi:** Shashti 3.32 pm • **Nakshatra:** Ardra 5.05 am • Moon in Kataka Rashi • **Rahukaala:** 04:30 pm to 06:00pm • **Gulikakala:** 03:00 pm to 04:30 pm • **Yamaganda:** 12:00 pm to 01:30 pm

WEATHER — MIN 22°C | MAX 35°C — FORECAST Cloudy

Sunrise 06.07 am · Sunset 06.32 pm · Moonrise 10.48 am · Moonset 12.14 am

The selfless Waterman

Sixty-two-year-old Govind Gundappa Gundkal, a farmer from a village in Dharwad, is on a mission to quench the thirst of animals. His act of supplying water from his borewell to a bone-dry stream has earned the admiration of many

MALLIKARJUN HIREMATH
@Dharwad

WATER is the essence of life. It sustains every life. With the mercury hitting 40 degrees Celsius in most parts of Karnataka, a majority of the once-abundant water sources are mere reflections of their former selves. Serpentine queues outside public taps and private tankers and people drilling deep into Mother Earth to find water have become a common sight.

We humans, however, often defeat such adversities and emerge victorious. But not all living beings are as fortunate.

The silent victims of these unprecedented summer months are the birds and animals, who find it difficult to find even a drop of water. But not all hope is lost, as there are God-sent saviours, who, by different means, quench the thirst of such creatures.

One such angel is 62-year-old Govind Gundappa Gundkal, a farmer from Masalikatti village in Kalghatgi taluk of Dharwad district. Govind has been pumping water from his borewell into the dry stream in his village to help animals, birds and cattle. He has been doing this for the last three years and has never yearned for any publicity or fame.

Speaking to The New Sunday Express, Govind recalled the incident that made him take up this initiative. "I used to take my cattle to the stream adjacent to my farm. But three years ago, the stream went dry. I used water from my borewell to quench the thirst of my cattle in my farm. However, I noticed other animals coming to the stream and returning without any water," he says, adding that this hit him hard and he decided to pump water from his borewell into the stream.

He says the stream comes alive only during the monsoon and is mostly dry from February and summer months. "Every year, I supply water from my borewell to the stream for almost four months. I have connected 10 pipes from my borewell to the stream. I supply water for almost four hours every day," says Govind, a father of two. As Govind owns only a small piece of land, water from his borewell is sufficient for his crops.

Govind's son Maruti recalled an incident that had a great impact on his father. "He (Govind) once saw a deer returning without drinking water as the stream had gone dry. That's when he decided to supply water from our borewell to the stream. He has been doing this for the last three years. We own 1.5 acres of land and the water from our borewell is enough to irrigate this land. We also irrigate four acres of land taken on lease," says Maruti.

Govind's act of kindness has earned him several admirers.

A resident of the village from the Gouli tribe, who rear cattle, says Govind's gesture has also helped to keep a check on human-animal conflict. "Not just cattle, but even animals in the wild are benefiting from Govind supplying water to the stream. The stream borders a forest. Wild animals don't venture into our village in search of water, as the water supplied by Govind quenches their thirst. We hear of human-animal conflicts from across the state. But the story is different in our village, thanks to Govind," he says.

Another resident says shepherds, in large numbers, camp near the stream. "The location is ideal for grazing, and our animals get water from the stream. More people should come up with such ideas to help animals and birds," added another Gouli community member.

Sugarcane Growers' Association district secretary Parusuram Yattinguda said they felicitated Govind after learning about his good deed. "We have visited the stream and the farmer's land. As many as 700 cattle heads in the village are dependent on the stream in summer months," he added.

Govind says he is determined to continue his noble cause, as he feels nature is for everyone, and not just humans.

(Above) Farmer Govind Gundappa Gundkal from Masalikatti village in Kalaghatagi taluk pumps water into the stream for animals

'Even civilians can dream of going to space'

PURAN CHOUDHARY @Bengaluru

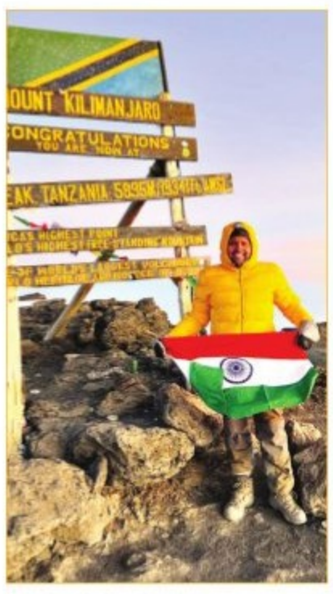
GOPICHAND Thotakura, the second Indian who will travel to space after Wing Commander Rakesh Sharma, wants to inspire every Indian child to dream bigger without worrying about making it or not. Gopi will script history after 40 years as one of the first space tourists from the country and will be accompanied by a six-member crew aboard Blue Origin's New Shepard-25 (NS-25) Mission, founded by billionaire Jeff Bezos.

In an interview with TNSE, Gopi, a commercial pilot and co-founder of Preserve Life Corp – a holistic wellness centre in Atlanta, US, said he cannot express how exhilarated he is to do this as an Indian and the weight this task holds as he "takes the spirit of India" and the "people of India" along with him.

The 30-year-old asserted that he wants to leave a legacy for the next generation of Indians who are not from military backgrounds, stating, "Even a civilian in India can dream of going to space."

With the tricolour placed next to his workstation, Gopi has always had an adventurous spirit. In addition to flying jets commercially, he pilots bush, aerobatic, seaplanes, gliders, and hot air balloons. He has also served as an international medical jet pilot. With specialisation in aeronautical engineering, Gopi has built world's only dual engine, a three-seater tandem, open cockpit, experimental aircraft that he flies everyday.

A graduate of Embry-Riddle, his recent escapade was climbing the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro. The seventh human flight of the New Shepard will go beyond the Karman line – the boundary that separates Earth's atmosphere and outer space, which is approximately at an altitude of 80 to 100km above the mean sea level. During this time, one can experience zero gravity. "Once the rocket crosses the line and we go into lower Earth orbit, we'll float around zero gravity for some time before the capsule comes back. So, the training includes familiarising us with stimulations, sessions with individuals who have been to space, and building physical and mental resilience," Gopi said.



Gopichand Thotakura

On the evolving sector of space tourism, he said today many countries and multinational companies are looking at space as the future, attempting to fly orbital and sub-orbital flights. "In the next decade or less, we will hear people saying that I am not going to New York, but space and I'll be right back," Gopi added.

Gopi pursued his primary and secondary education at Sarala Birla Academy in Bengaluru and staunchly believes that teachers play a huge role in shaping one's life. He recalls how many discouraged his capabilities of being a pilot, but his father vetoed everyone and supported him. On India's growing appetite for science and space exploration, Gopi said there is "no bigger opportunity than science in India." "If we (Indians) can start thinking out of the box, we will surpass any other nation in the world," he added.

On India's Gaganyaan Mission, he said the country has come a long way. However, he hopes a civilian can become a gaganaut and take a flight soon. An advocate of sustainability, Gopi's mission patch reflects five elements – Earth, fire, water, air, and space, with a small message that there is "no planet B" or "no Plan B" and we must strive to protect Earth. "If you can't be mindful of what you do today, future generations will face the brunt of it, and we would have actively contributed to that effect," he said.

> **The training includes familiarising us with stimulations, sessions with individuals who have been to space, and building physical and mental resilience**— Gopichand Thotakura

General observer: Keep strict vigil on MCC violation

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

STRICT vigil must be maintained on the violation of the Moral Code of Conduct (MCC) in the Bengaluru Central Lok Sabha constituency, said General Observer Gayatri Rathore. She was speaking at the meeting of General Observers of Bengaluru Central Lok Sabha constituency here on Saturday. "Appropriate measures must be taken to ensure smooth conduct of the Lok Sabha elections without giving scope for any kind of problems," Rathore said.

Calling upon officials to check complaints received in the CVIGIL app, she said "Complaints should be checked immediately and appropriate action should be taken. Vehicles must be thoroughly checked at check posts and any unaccounted money, drugs, alcohol and other items must be seized immediately and an FIR should be filed."

The Media Certification and Monitoring Committee team was asked to keep a watch on the content that is telecasted in electronic media, posted on social media and published in the print media on candidates in the fray in Bengaluru Central constituency. Preeti Gehlot, BBMP Special Commissioner and nodal officer of the Media Certification and Monitoring Committee said that if there is doubt on any of the reports/contents published and telecasted it should be brought to the attention of the officials for suitable action. Officials said that eight assembly constituencies fall under the Bengaluru Central Lok Sabha and there are 2,125 polling booths under this. They added that the Assistant Returning Officers had visited all the polling booths and checked if necessary arrangements were in place for the voting on April 26.

IN-SPACe CANSAT event from April 15

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

The Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACe), in collaboration with the Astronautical Society of India (ASI), announced the IN-SPACe CANSAT Student Competition from April 15-17 in Ahmedabad, Gujarat. A total of 28 teams across the country will participate in the vibrant display of CANSAT-sized satellites launch competition.

The event will be graced by Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) chairman S Somanath, along with chairman of IN-SPACe Dr Pawan Goenka. The competition is poised to ignite passion for space exploration among the younger generation. Students will embark on a journey of designing, developing, and launching CAN-sized satellites, with a challenging goal of reaching an altitude of 800 metres above the launch site using drones. , said a press release.

Dr Vinod Kumar, Executive Secretary of the ASI, said "By providing students with a platform to showcase their talent and creativity, this competition plays a crucial role in honing their skills and preparing them for the challenges of tomorrow's space industry."

BMTC to run buses from Chinnaswamy Stadium for IPL spectators

Bengaluru: For the benefit of spectators attending the IPL 2024 cricket match at M Chinnaswamy Stadium, Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) will be operating buses from the stadium to different parts of the city till the close of the matches, based on traffic needs, said a release from the bus corporation on Saturday. It will operate buses on April 15, May 4, May 12 and May 18 from the stadium. Buses will be operated from the stadium to Kadugodi bus stand, Sarjapura, Electronic City, Bannerghatta National Park, Kengeri, Janapriya Township at Magadi Road, Nelamangala, Yelahanka 5th Stage, RK Hedge Nagara, Bagaluru and Hoskote.

Borewells run dry, inoperational RO units forced to shut down

RISHITA KHANNA @Bengaluru

DESPITE authorities' promises made months ago to revive dry borewells, the city still grapples with depleted borewells. Many RO units or water ATMs either remain closed or operate with reduced yield, functioning only for a few hours.

As per sources from the BBMP authorities, at least 15 water dispenser units were closed by March in Bengaluru North alone. The challenging crisis has particularly left migrant workers and street food vendors in a state of helplessness.

"Each day, continuously, we check one kiosk after another, as our businesses are entirely dependent on water. While we have shifted to disposable cutlery, other necessities still require water. There are times when we go to the water ATMs with cans and come home empty," Alok, a native of Bihar who had been running a tea shop in Yeshwanthpur said.

While migrant workers and vendors express frustration over non-functional water ATMs, unit operators say they are out of alternatives. "Borewells are our sole source. Water tankers are unaffordable. When the borewells run dry, we are forced to temporarily shut down," an RO unit operator in Jayanagar said.

Another street food vendor, Lankesh, who has been operating his street food business in Malleshwaram's Milky Colony lamented the people are not kept informed about the schedule of the water supply via water ATMs.

A borewell rig drilling water for residents at Kengeri in Bengaluru | VINOD KUMAR T

Lankesh, a native of Assam, said, "My business relies on about five cans of 20 litres of water each.

Nowadays, the water units operate with limited hours, only from 2 pm to 4 pm, and provide limited yield. On some days, the authorities operate the units alternately, sometimes every other day, and other times once every three days, but we are not informed."

Many vendors and sellers in the KR Market expressed how the water scarcity, coupled with soaring temperatures, has significantly impacted their business.

A vendor said, "We need water for vegetables and fruits regularly, but now we only have access to water from 3 pm to 5 pm. What do we do before and after that?" The market has over 500 shops only for fruits and vegetables but collectively also we cannot afford tankers, there is no money and, moreover, no coordination, he added.

EXPRESS READ

AWAKE to organise entrepreneurship prog

Bengaluru: The Association of Women's Entrepreneurs of Karnataka will organize a 12-day entrepreneurship development training programme for women. It will be held between April 22 -May 4 at the AWAKE office in Rajajinagar. Entrepreneurs aged 18-50 with a minimum qualification of SSLC can apply. Candidates with a technical education background will be given preference, said Asha NR, chairperson, AWAKE in a press release.

A 22-yr-old youth died after he lost control over his bike and rammed into a divider on Friday night, near Sompura toll gate. The deceased, Mukesh, was a resident of Electronics City and hailed from Rajasthan. He was over-speeding as he was returning from Hosakerehalli and lost control over his vehicle

RDPR DEPT GOES TO POLICE OVER 2 'MISSING' FILES

YATHIRAJU @ Bengaluru

CLOSE on the heels of the Karnataka Public Service Commission (KPSC) approaching the Vidhana Soudha police for a missing confidential file containing the selection list of junior engineers (civil) in the Karnataka Slum Development Board, it is now Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department's (RDPR) turn to approach the same police over two missing files from its office located in MS Building.

An RDPR official, on condition of anonymity, said that the missing files were very much required because they were related to providing jobs on compassionate grounds for medical reasons to the legal heirs of government employees in gram panchayats.

The official added that they found from the movement register that the said two files were received in the personal section of the Director (Panchayat Raj-1), RDPR, on May 31, 2018. Therefore, a show-cause notice was issued to a Panchayat Development Officer (PDO), who was working in the personal section of the Director in 2018.

In the notice dated April 15, 2023, the PDO was instructed to search for the missing files within a week, if not, disciplinary action would be taken against him. But still, there was no response from him, the official added.

On the other hand, despite searching for the missing files, they have not been found so far. The officials of the RDPR filed a complaint with the Vidhana Soudha police to take action against the erring officials responsible since the missing files were prepared at the request of the legal heirs of government employees seeking jobs on compassionate grounds for medical reasons, sources said.

At the end of March 2024, unable to find the confidential files, the Assistant Secretary of KPSC filed a complaint with the Vidhana Soudha police. The file was prepared to comply with the directives issued by the High Court of Karnataka.

HEE HAW OF CAMPAIGNING

Bengaluru North candidate Shobha Karandlaje and MLA Dr CN Ashwath Narayan campaign at the Dhobi Ghat in Vyalikaval on Saturday | SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

Man kills wife for postponing having a child

Bengaluru: A 30-year-old homemaker was murdered by her husband for delaying having a child. The victim, Girija a resident of Annasandra Payla, had an miscarriage recently, and was depressed. She kept postponing to have a child immediately after the incident. Frustrated by her decision, Naveen Kumar would get into fights with her, and strangled her to death during a heated argument on Friday. After killing his wife, Naveen fled the location, however, the police arrested him within a few hours. Naveen is a native of Ramanagara, who distributed bread to stores and bakeries. Girija was a native of Bhatkal, and stayed with her parents in Yeshwanthpur before she got married. The couple got married just eight months ago. The HAL police have registered a case.

Man falls from flyover, dies

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

A 38-year-old motorist, Prasad, died after he fell from a flyover on the Bengaluru-Tumakur highway near Jalahalli metro station. He fell from a height of almost 35 feet when his scooter was hit by a car on Saturday, around 6.20 am. The car driver abandoned the car near Goraguntepalya junction and fled the spot.

Prasad was a resident of Shankar Nagar near Mahalakshmi Layout, and worked in a wholesale shop at the APMC yard in Dasanapura. He was coming towards the city from Nelamangala, when the accident occurred. The victim died on the spot, and the body was shifted to Victoria Hospital for autopsy.

"Prasad, was dragged for almost 10 meters before he fell. The two wheeler of the victim was on the flyover. The car details are also found," said Siri Gowri, DCP (Traffic North).

The police suspect that the car driver was inebriated, and overspeeding, which casued the accident.

Prasad, who was riding on edge of the flyover, could not find an escape. He was dragged along with the car for some distance, before he hit the flyover and fell down, said the police.

Peenya traffic police have registered a case.

BJP, Cong blame each other

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

One of them told her that the bags contained mangoes. At the same time, the election officers, who received information about the cash bags being handed over, reached the spot.

Seeing the FST and police personnel, around five men jumped out of the two cars and ran away. Meanwhile, a few people who were sitting inside a Toyota Fortuner SUV, which was parked a few yards away from the two cars, sped away. A man on a scooter near the spot fled too. Those who were in the Mercedes-Benz car locked the vehicle before escaping. The officials summoned a mechanic and broke open the windshields of the car. After opening the doors, the officials found the cash bags inside the car. Both cars were towed away to Jayanagar police station.

Nikitha told TNSE that her higher-ups informed her about the cash bags and the white Mercedes-Benz and red Volkswagen cars and the Toyota Fortuner SUV. "After reaching the spot, I questioned the people inside the car. They panicked and ran away," she said.

Election officials break the car window to seize the cash, in Bengaluru on Saturday

It is said that those in the two cars and the SUV were waiting near the temple to collect cash from the man who came there on the scooter. The owner of the Volkswagen car has been identified as Somashekar and the scooter owner as Dhananjay.

Reacting to an allegation that the cash belonged to some Congress leaders, Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy said, "I learnt that a BJP corporator was at the spot where the cash bags were seized. Going by this, one can allege that the cash belonged to BJP leaders. Police have seized the cars. Let them investigate. I appeal to the EC to look into the matter seriously."

MP Tejasvi Surya said, "The Congress is attempting to bribe voters in Bengaluru South constituency. The seizure of unaccounted cash in Jayanagar indicates this. The owners of the vehicles are purportedly close to some Congress leaders."

39-yr-old stroke patient treated within 3 minutes

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

A 39-year-old patient, with a history of excessive alcohol consumption and smoking who faced a life-threatening brain attack, was treated for a stroke within three minutes. The patient who weighed around 114 kg, arrived with severe headache, giddiness, and vomiting.

Within 30 minutes there were symptoms of stroke. The emergency medical team recognized the symptoms and mobilized the hospital's stroke team.

Doctors recommended a four-vessel angiogram and Mechanical Thrombectomy. The successful clot extraction restored blood flow, improving limb power by 75-100%, speech, and mobility. Following this, a mechanical thrombectomy was conducted within six hours, resulting in the total reversal of neuronal damage. The patient can now walk independently and is undergoing physiotherapy.

Dr Bhaskar, Interventional Radiologist at Bhagwan Mahaveer Jain Hospital, Girinagar, said, "The rapid recovery of a stroke patient, progressing from a neurological score of 0/5 to 5/5 within just three minutes post-surgery, is indeed a remarkable. This ranks among the quickest recoveries in my 25-year tenure. The successful extraction of a 3mm clot in one piece during angiography was a fortunate outcome. It is alarming that strokes are now affecting younger individuals, and diagnosing them from seemingly innocuous symptoms like a headache, runny nose, and vomiting presents a significant challenge."

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank

RMV EXTENSION BRANCH, New Corporation No. 3, 17th Cross Road, Near Janata Bazar, Upper Palace Orchards, Sadashivanagar, Bengaluru - 560 080.
Tele : 080 - 23615897, email ID : cb0888@canarabank.com

DEMAND NOTICE [SECTION 13(2)]

NOTICE TO BORROWER/ MORTGAGOR

Whereas, the Authorized Officer of the **Canara Bank, RMV Extension Branch,** Bengaluru under the Securitization And Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (2)of Chapter-3 of the Security Interest(Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notice/s on below mentioned date, calling upon the following borrower/s/ to repay the dues within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

Name of the Borrower/guarantors/mortgagor: 1.M/s Salutaris Technologies Pvt. Ltd., No. 72, 5th Cross, HIG Colony, Dollars Colony Sanjaynagar, RMV 2nd Stage, Bengaluru - 560 094. **2. Mr. Akshay H. Ural, (Guarantor),** S/o. Harikrishna Ural, No. 52, Saligrama, 16th Cross, 5th Main AECS Layout 2nd Stage, Sanjay Nagar, Bengaluru - 560 094. **3. Mrs. Prakrity N (Guarantor),** D/o. Narayan Sarangan, No. 72, 5th Cross, HIG Colony, Dollars Colony Sanjaynagar, RMV 2nd Stage, Bengaluru - 560 094, **4. Mr. Shreedhar K. S. (Guarantor),** S/o. Shreeramamurthy, No. 106, 1st Floor, No. 29/1, Vijay Enclave Apts. Sanjayanagar, Bhoopasandra, Bengaluru - 560 094 **5. Mr. Y. D. Ravi** (Guarantor), S/o. Y. D. Raghavachari, No. 3138, 1st Cross, 19th Main,Vijayanagar 2nd Stage, Mysore- 570 017, **6. Mr. Murari Narayanan (Guarantor),** S/o. S. Narayana, 12 'A' Block, Sanjayanagar, Bangalore - 560 094.

Sl. No	Loan Number	Nature of Loan/ Limit	Date of Sanction	Amount
1	0566261010741	2000-MSME-OD/OCC	08/11/2022	Rs.25,00,000/-
2	0888261031340	261-OCC GENERAL	08/11/2022	Rs.3,75,00,000/-
3	0888747000001	747-FITL	29.06.2021	Rs.6,10,422/-
4	0888755000003	755-GECL	19.06.2020	Rs.79,75,000/-

Total Liability as on date : **Rs. 4,14,34,547.20** (Four Crore Fourteen Lakhs Thirty-Four Thousand Five Hundred Forty-Seven Rupees and Twenty Paise only)+ together with further interest and incidental expenses and costs.

Details of Secured Assets :

Sl No.	Immovable	Name of the Title deed holder
1	**Schedule A Property : Item No. 1** : All that piece parcel of Immovable Industrial Property consisting of Plot No. 14A, Panchayat Khata No. 14/B, situated in Survey No. 48, measuring 820 square meters, Belavadi Industrial Area, Belavadi Village, Yelavala Hobli, Mysuru Taluk & Dist. Karnataka. East : Plot No. 14, West : KIADB Road, North : Plot No. 14, South : KIADB Road.	**Mrs. Prakrithy N.** D/o. Narayan Sarangan
	Item No. 2: All that piece parcel of Immovable Industrial Property consisting of Plot No. 14, Panchayat Khata No. 14/A, situated in Survey No. 289/2, measuring 5716 square meters, Belavadi Industrial Area, Belavadi Village, Yelavala Hobli, Mysuru Taluk & Dist. Karnataka. East : Plot No. 15 & KIADB Road, West : KIADB Road, North : Plot No. 13, South : KIADB Road.	**Mrs. Prakrithy N.** D/o. Narayan Sarangan
	Item No. 3: All that piece parcel of Immovable residential Site at No. 183, Khata No. M/14, measuring 41x30 ft. situated in Mahadeshwaranagar layout, 3rd Main Road, 2nd Cross, Vijayanagara, 2nd Stage, Devaraja Mohalla, Mysore, Karnataka. East: Site No. 174/175, West : Road, North : Site No. 184, South : Site No. 182.	**Mr. Y. D. Ravi** S/o. Y. D. Raghavachari

Date of NPA: 30.03.2024 **Demand Notice Date:06.04.2024**

The above borrowers committed default of repayment of loans as above and the loans are duly secured by way of mortgage of property described as above and were classified as Non Performing Assets on above mentioned date. The Bank issued Registered notice to all the above borrower/Guarantors under Section 13(2) of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002, (SARFAESI Act) calling upon them to repay the outstanding amount. We now call upon to pay the above mentioned liability with further interest and cost accrued till date within 60 days from the date of this notice, failing which, Bank will be constrained to exercise its rights of enforcement of security interest as per Section 13(4) (a) to (b) of SARFAESI act 2002 against the secured assets given in the schedule above. The above borrower/s in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the above properties and restrained from dealing in term of Section 13 (13) of SARFAESI Act 2002 and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of Canara Bank for the accounts mentioned above with further interest and cost, expenses thereon.

Sd/-
Authorised Officer
Canara Bank

Place : Bangalore
Date : 06.04.2024

ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಖರೀದಿ ಪತ್ರ ಕಳೆದು ಹೋಗಿದೆ

ಮುನಿಸಿಪಲ್ ಕಾರ್ಪೊರೇಷನ್, ಬೆಳಗಾವಿ ಇವರು ದಾಸ್ತಾವೇಜು ನಂ. 69, ದಿನಾಂಕ: 06.04.1990 ರಂದು ಆಸ್ತಿ ಸಂ. 2386, ಸಿಟಿಎಸ್ ನಂ. 7548, ಸೆಕ್ಟರ್ ನಂ. 12, ಮಹಾಂತೇಶ ನಗರ, ಎಂ.ಎಂ. ಬಡಾವಣೆ, ಬೆಳಗಾವಿ-590016 ಇದನ್ನು ಲೇಟ್ ಶ್ರೀ ಜಯಂತ್ ಶಂಕರರಾವ್ ದೇಸಾಯಿ ಇವರಿಗೆ ಸದರಿ ಆಸ್ತಿಯನ್ನು ಬರೆದು ಕೊಟ್ಟಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಅದರಂತೆ, ಜಯಂತ್ ಶಂಕರರಾವ್ ದೇಸಾಯಿರವರು ಖರೀದಿಸಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಸದರಿ ಆಸ್ತಿಯನ್ನು ನನ್ನ ತಾಯಿ ಲೇಟ್ ಶ್ರೀಮತಿ ವಿಜಯಾ ಉಜ್ವನಕೊಪ್ ಅವರಿಂದ ನನ್ನ ಸುಪರ್ದಿಗೆ ಬಂದಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಸದರಿ ಆಸ್ತಿಯ ಕ್ರಯ ಪತ್ರವನ್ನು ನಾನು ದಿನಾಂಕ: 09.04.2024ರಂದು ಬೆಂಗಳೂರಿನ ಮೆಜೆಸ್ಟಿಕ್ ವೃತ್ತದಿಂದ ವಿದ್ಯಾರಣ್ಯಪುರಂಗೆ ಬರುವಾಗ ನಂಜಪ್ಪ ವೃತ್ತದ ಬಳಿ ಸಂಜೆ 6.30ರ ಸುಮಾರಿಗೆ ಕಳೆದುಕೊಂಡಿರುತ್ತೇನೆ. ಆದ ಕಾರಣ ದಾಸ್ತಾವೇಜು ಸಿಕ್ಕವರು ಈ ನೋಟೀಸಿನ 2 ದಿನದಲ್ಲಿ ನನ್ನ ವಿಳಾಸಕ್ಕೆ ತಲುಪಿಸಬೇಕೆಂದು ಕೋರುತ್ತೇನೆ ಅಥವಾ ಸಿಕ್ಕವರು ತಮ್ಮ ವಿಳಾಸ ತಿಳಿಸಿದಲ್ಲಿ ಸ್ವತಃ ನಾನೇ ಬಂದು ಪಡೆಯುತ್ತೇನೆ.

ಸಹಿ/- ಭಾರತಿ, ಬಿ.ಎಸ್.
98/78-8ಬಿ, ಜಯಲೀಲ, ತಿಂಡ್ಲು ಮುಖ್ಯ ರಸ್ತೆ, ವಿದ್ಯಾರಣ್ಯಪುರ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು-560097

ಸ್ಥಳ: ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು
ದಿನಾಂಕ: 12.04.2024

ದ್ವಿತೀಯ ಪುಣ್ಯಸ್ಮರಣೆ

ಜನನ: 29.09.1942 ಮರಣ: 19.04.2022

ಶ್ರೀಮತಿ ಬಿ.ಎಸ್.ಶಶಿಕಲಾ

w/o ಶ್ರೀ ಎಸ್.ಆರ್.ಉಮೇಶ್‌ಚಂದ್ರನ್
B.Sc,, M.A., L.LB,. I.R.S.,
(ನಿವೃತ್ತ ಸಹಾಯಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿ, ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಆಬಕಾರಿ ಮತ್ತು ಸೀಮಸುಂಕ ಇಲಾಖೆ)

ಇಂದು ಮಧ್ಯಾಹ್ನ 12 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ನಮ್ಮ ಸ್ವಗೃಹ ನಂ.47, 3ನೇ ಕ್ರಾಸ್ ಸೆಂಟ್ರಲ್ ಎಕ್ಸೈಸ್ ಕಾಲೋನಿ, ವಿಜಯನಗರ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು 560040ರಲ್ಲಿ ಏರ್ಪಡಿಸಿದೆ. ತಾವು ಆಗಮಿಸಿ ಮೃತರ ಆತ್ಮಕ್ಕೆ ಶಾಂತಿ ಕೋರಬೇಕೆಂದು ವಿನಂತಿ.

ಇಂತಿ ದುಃಖಿತರು

ಶ್ರೀ ಎಸ್.ಆರ್.ಉಮೇಶ್ ಚಂದ್ರನ್‌ರವರು, ಕುಟುಂಬದವರು ಹಾಗೂ ಬಂಧು ಮಿತ್ರರು.
9241496923, 9449120817
9886987470 ☎ 080-2335 8300

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

THE ALL-NEW APP

SCAN THE QR CODE TO DOWNLOAD THE APP

Google Play App Store

STAY UP-TO-DATE WITH THE LATEST NEWS

The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd
(A Govt. of Kerala Undertaking) Sankaramangalam, Kollam-691 583
Phone: 0476-2651215 to 2651217, e-mail: md@kmml.com, URL: www.kmml.com

TENDER NOTICE

For more details, please visit E-Tendering Portal, https://etenders.kerala.gov.in or www.kmml.com

Sl No.	Tender ID	Items
1	2024_KMML_671626_1	For the supply of High Purity Liquid Argon
2	2024_KMML_671495_1	For Fabrication & Supply of Tickle Condenser E207A
3	2024_KMML_671595_1	For the supply and installation of Brick lining Inside Calciner
4	2024_KMML_671442_1	For the supply of Power Control Centre

Chavara 12.04.2024 Sd/- Managing Director for The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank **CIRCLE OFFICE - BENGALURU**

APPOINTMENT OF HOME LOAN DIRECT SELLING AGENTS

Refer and earn attractive commissions on Home Loans referrals.
Get Empanelled as **Home Loan Direct Selling Agent** in Canara Bank

Eligibility	Individuals/sole proprietorship/Partnership firms/Companies with basic knowledge of financial products and services. Prior experience in selling any financial product is preferred. **Preference to be given to the DSAs who have established/owning office to extend such services and have experience in this segment.** Note: Retired/Ex-employees of our Bank/Public Sector Banks, close relative of our Bank staff/Ex-employee /Retired employee are not eligible for appointment of DSA.
Payout	Payout on Sanction amount with minimum 20% Disbursement

For further information on empanelment and terms & condition contact us at: 9481068984

INDIAN INSTITUTES OF SCIENCE EDUCATION AND RESEARCH
(Autonomous Institutions established by the Ministry of Education, Government of India)

BERHAMPUR | BHOPAL | KOLKATA | MOHALI | PUNE | THIRUVANANTHAPURAM | TIRUPATI

ADMISSION NOTICE 2024

5-YEAR BS-MS (DUAL DEGREE) AND 4-YEAR BS DEGREE PROGRAMS

ONLINE APPLICATION WINDOW IS NOW OPEN

Applications are invited from highly motivated students studying in the science stream for admission to 5-Year BS-MS (Dual Degree) and 4-Year BS Degree Programs in Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research (IISERs) at Berhampur, Bhopal, Kolkata, Mohali, Pune, Thiruvananthapuram and Tirupati for the academic session of 2024-25

For more information, please visit: **https://www.iiseradmission.in**

ATTRACTIVE FEATURES

- 5-Year BS-MS (Dual Degree) Programs in Sciences and 4-Year BS Program in Engineering Sciences and Economic Sciences (at IISER Bhopal only)
- Curricula distributed in breadth and depth with an opportunity to learn subjects from internationally reputed academicians
- Candidates choose their specialization only after exploring different subjects
- Exposure to the front line research areas at the world-class laboratories/research groups
- Research internships and year-long research projects leading to MS thesis with opportunities for interdisciplinary research
- Fully residential campuses with well-equipped hostels and medical facilities
- Opportunities for sports, cultural, and other extracurricular activities for holistic development

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

- Applications are to be submitted online only at https://www.iiseradmission.in
- Applicants must carefully go through the instructions and the FAQ section on the website before filling up the form
- A non-refundable application fee of ₹2000 (₹1000 for SC/ST/Kashmiri Migrant/PwD candidates) is applicable

ELIGIBILITY

Candidates who have passed Class XII/equivalent examination in science stream (in 2022, 2023 or 2024) with minimum 60% marks (55% for SC/ST/PwD) are eligible to apply for the IISER Aptitude Test (IAT) 2024

All admissions will be only through IAT 2024

SCHOLARSHIP

Admitted students may be eligible for a limited number of INSPIRE scholarship as per the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India norms

IMPORTANT DATES

Application Portal Opened on	April 1, 2024
Last Date for Online Applications	May 13, 2024
IISER Aptitude Test (IAT)	June 9, 2024

All inquiries must be addressed to:
CHAIRPERSON, JOINT ADMISSIONS COMMITTEE 2024
Email: askjac2024@iiserb.ac.in, **Website:** https://www.iiseradmission.in
Phone: 0755-2691798 (2 PM to 5 PM, Monday to Friday)

They (BJP leaders) issue statements admitting that they would change the Constitution if they win over 400 seats. Hence, the BJP members are anti-national as they oppose the Constitution
Laxman Savadi, Congress MLA

POLLING DATE
PHASE-2 APRIL 26
PHASE-3 MAY 7

DAYS TO GO
PHASE-2 12
PHASE-3 23

TOTAL SEIZURES
₹345.89 Crore

FIRS BOOKED
1,650

COMPLAINTS ON CVIGIL 22,192
40,743
Total Voters Opting Vote From Home under Phase-2 elections

TWEET OF THE DAY
Tributes to the martyrs who sacrificed their lives in the horrific Jallianwala Bagh massacre this day, which will always be recalled as a black day in the history of our freedom struggle
@DKShivakumar, Deputy Chief Minister

REMARK ROW

Guarantees made women in villages lose their way: HDK

Says Siddaramaiah, Shivakumar spent over ₹300 cr to advertise guarantees

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Tumakuru

STATE JDS president and former chief minister HD Kumaraswamy has kicked up a row, saying that women in rural areas have "lost their way" because of the five guarantee schemes introduced by the Congress government.

"In the last Assembly polls in 2023, they (Congress) announced five guarantees. From whose pockets is this government funding them? Mothers in the villages have lost their way ('daritappiddare' in Kannada). What will happen to the lives of these mothers in villages if the government doles out freebies like this? Everyone should think about this. They (Congress) have nothing for the people of the state except for the five freebies," he said at a roadshow, while campaigning for Tumakuru NDA candidate V Somanna.

He alleged that CM Siddaramaiah and DCM DK Shivakumar have spent over Rs 300 crore to advertise the guarantees in the media. "They have not been spending from Congress' coffers but are using public money," he said.

He said farmers have lost Rs 35,000 crore because of crop loss in the state. But he defended the delay by the Centre in releasing the funds under NDRF. "Since Nehru's time, certain rules have been laid, and the procedures have to be followed while releasing funds," he added.

Mothers in the villages have lost their way ('daritappiddare' in Kannada). What will happen to the lives of these mothers in villages if the government doles out freebies like this? Everyone should think about this - HD Kumaraswamy, — State JDS president

DKS: Gowda should reserve his prophecies for JDS' existence

BENGALURU: Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar asked former prime minister **HD Deve Gowda** to reserve his prophecies for the existence of his own JDS, rather than for the survival of the Congress government in the state. "The Congress has over 136 seats in Assembly. Gowda would be better off predicting the future of his won party than the Congress government in Karnataka," he said, replying to Gowda's statement that there is no guarantee for the Congress government after the Lok Sabha polls. "I have also seen as many foretellers as Gowda. He has spent 60 years in political life, while I have spent 40 years. We have 136 seats and let him not worry about our government's survival. He needs to tell people whether JDS will remain a separate party or merge with the BJP," he said. Asked about Prime Minister Narendra Modi's statement that the Constitution would not be changed even if Dr BR Ambedkar had sought it, he said, "I have respect for the prime minister. I am not sure why he is talking about this issue now. Why did he not expel party leaders who raised the issue of changing the Constitution if the BJP got 400 seats. If the prime minister is so committed to the integrity of the Constitution, he should expel the leaders," he urged. The PM has been talking about the Constitution only after the SC, ST and the downtrodden sections of the society expressed their concern over BJP's conspiracy to change it, he alleged. **ENS**

Attack on BJP worker in Hassan takes political turn

BR UDAYA KUMAR @Hassan

THE attack on a BJP worker in Hassan on Friday is taking political twists and turns. BJP-JDS alliance candidate **Prajwal Revanna** on Saturday blamed district in-charge minister KN Rajanna and the police for supporting those who attacked BJP worker Vijaya Kumar.

He visited the district hospital where Vijaya Kumar, who was attacked by a gang of five at his shop, is being treated. He slammed the police for not registering a case under Section 307 and said Congress leaders are stopping the police from doing their job.

Interestingly, Vijaya Kumar has filed two different complaints within a gap of three hours. Prajwal alleged that the police are acting at the behest of elected representatives of the ruling party and registered an FIR favouring the attackers.

On Saturday, the police arrested all the five accused and released them on bail.

Different versions on the attack are doing the rounds in the town. One said the assailants could be followers of BJP former MLA Preetam Gowda as Vijaya Kumar had spoken against him to the media, while others said the attack was to gain sympathy ahead of the elections. But a senior JDS leader denied all these charges. Preetam Gowda and Rajanna were not available for comments. Members of the Hassan City Brahmin Mahasabha condemned the incident, and demanded that the police take action against the culprits. JDS supremo HD Deve Gowda too visited Vijaya Kumar on Friday.

'INDEPENDENT REGULATORY BODY, TRANSPARENCY MUST FOR FUNDING PARTIES'

AS part of the Express Dialogues - a Mini Conclave, Chandan Gowda, Writer-Academician, Prof Sandeep Shastri, Director Academics, NITTE Education Trust and National Coordinator, Lokniti Network, BS Murthy, Political Analyst, and Samhita Arni, Writer, were in conversation with **Assistant Resident Editor Ramu Patil** and **Political Editor Bansy Kalappa**, on "Dynamics of India's Socio-Political Scene". Excerpts...

(From left) Samhita Arni, Prof Sandeep Shastri, Chandan Gowda, and BS Murthy, during their panel discussion at Express Dialogues - a Mini Conclave, in Bengaluru recently | VINOD KUMAR T

Ramu Patil: Do we see a narrative across India compared to earlier elections? Also, BJP keeps talking about 370-400 seats. Where are these numbers coming from?

Sandeep Shastri: 2014 saw BJP and NDA concentrating on North, Central and West India and in 2019, they had a 87% strike rate in this region. The focus expanded in 2019 to East and North East India and got 18-25 seats, which resulted in winning 305 seats. This time, the BJP sees the South as the region where they want to expand their presence. If they are looking to go beyond 305, that would be very difficult if they don't get seats in the South. They have maxed out in the North, and are now looking for the remaining 16 seats out of 80 in UP, 11 in Punjab and seven in Maharashtra. These seats are not in BJP's favour. They have a challenge in these seats and that is why they are looking southwards. If you ask me if there is a national narrative being played for the BJP, they have a national narrative that they have a national leader who heads the campaign. Whereas the opposition is seeking a narrative which varies from state to state because a lot of them are state-based parties. As of now, the opposition has not fallen into the trap of a leadership contest. A common point the ruling party makes is we have a leader, who is your leader? From the opposition angle, that is a wise strategy and if you respond to it, then the battle is lost even before it begins.

Ramu Patil: How is the I.N.D.I.A alliance going to perform in South India? Do you think BJP will be able to make inroads in other southern states?

Chandan Gowda: There was a survey that said BJP will not win even a single seat in Tamil Nadu. Imagine the amount of attention it has got. We saw images of Modi with Kamban Ramayana being read. He did Sengol in Parliament. The determination to get into these states is high. The publicity was bigger, but still, people thought the BJP would not get a single seat in TN. In Telangana, they may get a few. In Andhra Pradesh, they have tied up with Chandrababu Naidu and experts will opine better on how BJP also can make a difference. In Kerala, they will get zero. In Karnataka, it is not sure they can repeat the 25 seats like in the past.

Sandeep Shastri: They (BJP) have one strategy for Telangana and one for Karnataka. In Karnataka, it is to retain the last-time's figures, which is a 100 percent strike rate. They face a challenge to redo what they did last time. For Congress, if they get more than one seat, it is a better performance. Given the fact that guarantees the government is talking about, at the end of the day, it is the perception that matters. It depends on how the voters look at the guarantees and do they see them as transforming their lives. On the other hand, in Telangana, I guess Congress would do better than in Karnataka, because the victory there is more recent. The BJP is looking for about five seats here. The BJP is looking at 2047 in a long-term plan. What the BJP is doing in Tamil Nadu is first becoming the principal opposition to DMK and pushing aside AIADMK. I won't be surprised if there are one or two victories in Tamil Nadu. In Kerala, it is difficult to break the LDF and UDF stronghold and the BJP is just looking for a 'toe hold'. I will not be surprised by one of two wins. The aim is to weaken UDF and take the challenge later directly with LDF, this is their strategy across the country.

Bansy Kalappa: India has the largest youth population in the world. Are they getting adequate and accurate information to make an informed choice or is a narrative driving their decisions?

Samhita Arni: I am really impressed by the kind of knowledge that's come out from the youth in India today. Extremely smart, extremely sharp, far sharper than their parents, often. The youth are incredibly exposed. They are far more aware and emotionally intelligent.

Bansy Kalappa: Are the fundamentals of the nation changing due to the ongoing nature of ideology-based politics?

Samhita Arni: I see much more agitation actually building up. In the next five years, it is going to be more of a conflict just not about ideology but between ideology and freedom of choice.

Sandeep Shastri: I think when it comes to voting and not voting, we have seen this clear pattern unlike in the West. The poorer and the less educated you are and the lesser the social category you belong to, then you are more likely to vote.

Chandan Gowda: The poor are more interested in India's democracy. They are interested in voting, and they deeply care about voting, and why that is needs understanding. The reason why the middle-class does not vote is that there is no tangible difference. They already have existing privileges.

Ramu Patil: State Governments are approaching the Supreme Court seeking direction to Centre to release drought relief funds and on tax devolution. There are many such instances. Is federalism under stress?

Chandan Gowda: There are rules. If there's a drought, a drought relief thing should come out automatically, and it should be beyond party interventions.

Sandeep Shastri: I will make three points on this. First, when the recent debate broke out between the CM and the Union Finance Minister, I thought both were right in what they were saying. The CM was right in saying that being a state which contributes so much to the national revenues we are not getting back our due share. The Union minister was right when she said we don't control that. What she meant is the previous finance commission and the methodology that they adopted for the distribution of revenues. Generally, the finance commission recommendations are in principle accepted by the government and therefore Nirmala Sitharam was right in saying this was not under our control and the CM was also right in saying that we didn't get what is due to us. So I think now the pressure needs to be built up on the new finance commission to have a right methodology for this distribution to happen. Secondly, I have found that complaining on this issue does not have too much electoral significance. The third factor is in some ways, what the South is talking about is not so much about not getting what is our right but about who dominates politics of this country. It's more a symptom of that development and I think there is something bigger waiting for us two years from now when the next census happens and post delimitation. South India would lose 30 seats and all those seats would go to the North.

BS Murthy: What is discretionary today is more a strategic approach they take. It should basically be a right of the state to get the funds, whether it is floods or any other natural calamities.

Bansy Kalappa: What are your thoughts on electoral bonds?

BS Murthy: There's no denying the straightforward nature of electoral bonds. It appears to be a system where contributions are made annually, resembling a corporate transaction more than a traditional political donation. From the data, it seems like a case of "give money, state your demand". It's my personal conclusion that if you want something done by the government, you present it with an electoral bond. This system, while finely tuned, appears to foster a corrupt environment. Despite the Supreme Court's involvement, it's evident that the issue remains unresolved. Overall, electoral bonds seem to facilitate a clear quid pro quo dynamic, with little room for alternative interpretations.

Chandan Gowda: Given the current state of affairs, the levels of secrecy provided by electoral bonds seem to offer reassurance to both the donor and the political party. The fact that these contributions don't need to be disclosed as part of the audit structure raises questions about the intentions behind such a scheme. Anecdotal evidence suggests that this system may have been devised to accommodate certain interests. In a country where gray areas are inherent, running a business without engaging in dubious practices seems implausible. It's no surprise that many individuals resort to less-transparent means to generate wealth. With evidence against each instance of malpractice, one could argue that the electoral bond system goes beyond mere quid pro quo dynamics. You can't simply brush this off. It's remarkably accurate in exposing wrongdoing. While they may have hoped to escape scrutiny, the real question is whether this revelation will have the damaging impact everyone anticipates. It seems to be just another in a series of scandals. Despite what leaders like Rahul Gandhi may say, the crucial question is whether it's generating genuine resentment and anger among the public.

Sandeep Shashtri: I believe that while there should be a mechanism for funding political parties, if electoral bonds are to continue in the future, there must be an independent regulator overseeing the entire bond scheme. Clear rules should be established regarding the transfer of funds, as we've witnessed instances where new companies were created solely for making these donations. Companies should be required to provide annual account statements demonstrating certain profits, from which they can allocate funds for electoral bonds. Additionally, there should be transparency and accountability in the finances of political parties, with their accounts subject to public audit. Parties should disclose their receipt of funds from the electoral bond scheme and provide details on how these contributions were utilised. Looking at the developments surrounding electoral bonds, there's indeed growing disclosure shedding light on the motivations behind bond purchases and recipients. However, it seems that despite media attention, these revelations are often forgotten quickly. In our increasingly polarised society, supporters of a particular party tend to find ways to justify their party's receipt of electoral bonds, regardless of the circumstances.

EXPRESS Dialogues

FROM THE AUDIENCE

TNIE/TMS Editor Santwana Bhattacharya: How much of the level playing field is skewed because of the electoral bonds? Though it has been scrapped, but not in retrospect, what is going to be its immediate impact on the elections and do you feel that it has somehow worked its way in the election narrative somewhere in terms of impact in the minds of the voters?

BN Murthy: In terms of level playing field, there is no level playing field today. There is one party-A which has 60-70% of the resources, and the rest of India has 30%. Practically, this will continue for the next 1-2 elections as one party is sitting with the value of the money which the other party is finding it difficult to raise.

Chandan Gowda: One good thing is that the United States made funding transparent and the American government has rationalised it. It has ensured that there is no narrative and is committed to a certain capitalist order. There is no right wing and others.

Santwana Bhattacharya: What are the alternatives or is this the first election where so many questions are being raised and will a system of cleansing happen any which way?

Chandan Gowda: I was saying that making money transparent is not the solution to electoral bonds. The solution is how to curb election expenditure. We have a ceiling which is actually a farce. No one abides by it. We need a discussion on this. Unless election expenditures are curbed, the barriers will not go away to truly talented politicians who want to contest independently. Right now, the question of youth contesting elections does not emerge unless you are a part of the family system.

Sandeep Shastri: I think state funding of elections is a very idealistic solution. But the challenge is how do you prevent candidates from access to funds. That's why I go back to my point of black money. Unless that access point is dealt with, whatever you do to curb expenditure may not be effective. What former Chief Election Commissioner TN Seshan did was great. He tried to control visible expenditure. But did it really stop malpractice? I don't think so. What could not be tapped, documented or controlled increased subsequently. We need to look at the larger picture.

(The complete discussion can be watched on TNIE Videos YouTube channel)

Flying Squad officers in Sriperumbudur constituency seized 1,425Kg gold bars worth over Rs 10 crorefrom a van travelling from Minjur. The driver produced incomplete documents, leading to the seize. I-T dept has been informed. The van has been taken to the revenue divisional office for investigation.

BJP TO EXPOSE BJD'S FALSE NARRATIVE OF PROGRESS: PRADHAN

'Govt unable to provide safe water even after 24 yrs'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bhubaneswar

UNION Minister and BJP's Lok Sabha candidate from Sambalpur, **Dharmendra Pradhan,** on Saturday said that his party will expose the false narrative of Odisha's transformation in the last 24 years boasted by the BJD government.

Addressing two separate functions organised by the party at Angul and Dhenkanal for induction of new members into BJP, Pradhan said the party will come out with a 'chargesheet' against the ruling BJD to expose its failure in fulfilling the promises made to the people before every election.

It is a matter of concern that drinking water is still a problem for the people of Dhenkanal, Angul, Sambalpur and Deogarh district despite adecuate central allocation under Jal Jiva Mission.

"The BJD government is in power in the state for the last 24 years but it has not been able to provide safe drinking water to every household. The health services in the state has gonbe for a toss as more than half of the sanctioned doctor posts is lying vacant," Pradhan said adding, the Dhenkanal Sadar Hospital is no better.

Problems of malnutrition and anaemia among newborns are a serious concern while patients are being carried on cots due to the lack of motorable roads, he added. According to the National Family Health Survey (NHFS) in Odisha, newborns and women are suffering from malnutrition and anaemia.

Around 19 per cent children in the state are underweight at birth while 31 per cent are malnourished. He said Odisha is going to celebrate its centenary, formation of of a separate state on linguistic basis, in 2036 but here lies are spread about the excellent health services by the state government.

The union minister came down heavily on the state government for its reluctance to implement Ayushman Bharat Yojana for its narrow political ambitions.

B'luru cafe blast accused sent to 10-day NIA custody

BALA CHAUHAN @ Bengaluru

THE two accused in The Rameshwaram Cafe blast case -- mastermind Adbul Matheen Taha and bomber Mussavir Hussain Shazeb -- were brought to Bengaluru by a late evening flight from Kolkata on a three-day transit remand by a team of National Investigation Agency (NIA) officials.

On Saturday, the duo was produced before the NIA court in Bengaluru, which remanded them to police custody for 10 days. They will be taken to Shivamogga for further investigation.

Taha is key to almost all terror-related cases in Karnataka since 2019. He is allegedly a member of 'Al Hind IS' - a self-proclaimed terror outfit, which was formed in Bengaluru by Mehboob Pasha, Khaja Moideen alias Jalal of Cuddalore, Tamil Nadu and their associates in 2019. The module is said to be behind the murder of a Hindu leader in Tamil Nadu.

"Though the objective of this module is to spread terror in south India, unlike Indian Mujahideen (IM), whose homegrown cadres were indoctrinated to be jihadis -- the 'Al Hind IS' module is a group of mercenaries.

"They are given targets and incentivised by their overseas handler, who pays them in crypto currency. Incentives vary from Rs 10,000 and Rs 20,000," said informed sources

Taha and Shazeb were arrested in the wee hours of Friday morning from a low-budget lodge in Contai (Kanthi) in Purba Medinipore district, West Bengal, in a joint operation by the NIA, Central and state police agencies of WB, Karnataka, Telangana and Kerala. Taha and Shazeb had checked into the lodge recently and were living under false identities. According to sources, a team of CCB officials, Bengaluru police has consistently been with the NIA to nab the two fugitives.

According to sources, they travelled to north Karnataka, Tamil Nadu before going to WB, where they fell under the radar of the Central agencies, which were keeping a close watch on their movements. The NIA has extensively been quizzing families, friends and associates including college friends of the duo for more information on the two.

The photographs, CCTV footage and details of Taha and Shazeb, along with Rs 10 lakh bounty each, on credible information leading to their arrest that were shared by the agency have widely been disseminated across the country.

NIA brings Mussavir Hussain Shazeb and Adbul Matheen Taha, to Bengaluru in connection with The Rameshwaram Cafe blast on Saturday | EXPRESS

Congress leaders tried to mislead blast probe: Ashoka

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

LEADER of the Opposition in the Assembly R Ashoka accused state Congress leaders of trying to mislead the probe in the Rameshwaram Cafe blast case.

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, who had visited the blast spot, had cited business rivalry as a probable reason for the blast, while Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao had claimed that a BJP worker was questioned when he provided crucial information for probe, Ashoka told the media on Saturday.

The Congress was worried about its vote bank politics and tried to mislead the probe, he said. Appreciating the NIA for arresting the accused in the case, the BJP leader said the blast at the cafe had created fear among people, and by arresting the accused, the NIA has prevented many such attacks in the future.

He said the accused found West Bengal to be a safe place and had not gone to Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, or Rajasthan, all BJP-ruled states.

R Ashoka addressing a press meet

POLITICAL WARFARE

Tamilisai's candidacy hasn't made the going tough: Thamizhachi

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

THE saffron party is banking on Tamilisai's relative popularity and down-to-earth personality besides a significant presence of Brahmins and an upwardly-mobile population to shake up Chennai South, which has predominantly favoured the DMK.

Her primary battle is against DMK's incumbent MP and poet Thamizhachi Thangapandian. If Tamilisai translates to Tamil music, Thamizhachi means Tamil woman. Prior to kickstarting a fierce battle on the ground, Tamilisai and Thamizhachi shared a moment of camaraderie when they hugged each other after filing nomination papers around the same time on the same day. The campaign has since heated up.

The DMK is making full use of its organisational strength to canvas votes. Tamilisai is compensating for the lack of an equivalent organisational capacity through an enthusiastic door-to-door campaign and personal interactions with the voters in a bid to endear herself as their *Akka* (sister). Her campaign's tagline is *Akka vanthachu* (sister has come).

This puts Thamizhachi at a bit of a disadvantage as a fracture in her leg has forced her to campaign only from her vehicle. Moreover, she faces anti-incumbency from among a section of voters, especially due to her alleged inadequate presence in the field during the Chennai floods in December.

However, the Tamil Nadu ruling party's campaign shows no lack of confidence and appears to be enthusiastic in the constituency. Meticulous planning and sizable crowd on display at Thamizhachi's campaign stops, aided by local strongman and minister Ma Subramanian and all of the DMK's alliance partners. Thamizhachi remains confident that Tamilisai's candidacy hasn't made the going tough for her.

Apart from its traditional vote bank, especially among the working class, DMK derives its confidence from the tri-cornered nature of the contest, expected to result in a split of opposition votes in its favour. The third key party in the race is AIADMK, which had won the constituency thrice in the past. The principal opposition party in the state has fielded J Jayavardhan, who won here in 2014 but lost to Thamizhachi in 2019.

Jayavardhan is relying on his track record as an MP and on having stayed in touch with the people even when he was not in power.

Interestingly, in this electoral battle, BJP's jibe of DMK being a dynastic party finds little purchase as all three key candidates hail from political families. Tamilisai is the daughter of veteran Congress leader Kumari Anandan. Thamizhachi is the daughter of V Thangapandian, who was former revenue minister in the DMK government, and the sister of present finance minister Thangam Thennarasu. Jayavardhan is the son of AIADMK's prominent leader and former minister D Jayakumar.

The two Dravidian majors are framing this as a contest between themselves and they may be right. The BJP has contested in this constituency five times and lost its deposit thrice. The closest it came to a victory was when Jana Krishnamurthi, who later became BJP president, contested in 1998 as part of the AIADMK alliance and came runner-up by securing 45.9% votes.

The second closest was when former BJP state president and present Nagaland Governor La Ganesan secured 24.1% votes in 2014 without the support of the two Dravidian majors, but aided by a few other regional parties in a multi-cornered contest and the huge anti-incumbency against Congress and DMK. Still, he came third.

For Tamilisai, the drubbing she was handed by Kanimozhi Karunanidhi of DMK in Thoothukudi, in 2019 is a thing of the past. After the time spent in Puducherry as L-G, she is determined to win this election.

She is hopeful of joining the star-studded list of past winners from the constituency, which includes DMK founder C N Annadurai, Congress leader T T Krishnamachari, former President R Venkatraman, former minister Murasoli Maran and actor and dancer Vyjayanthimala Bali.

Wherever she campaigns, her popular slogan "Thamarai Malarndhe Theerum" blares from loudspeakers tied to autorickshaws. The future of her political trajectory and that of her party will depend a lot on whether the lotus blooms in Chennai South.

I don't think her contesting in the seat has heated up the race. In our campaign, we can see people elated by the DMK government. We will win by a big margin

Thamizhachi Thangapandian, DMK candidate, Chennai South

BIDDING ADIEU

Family members pay their last respects to well-known astrologer SK Jain in Bengaluru on Saturday | ALLEN EGENUSE J

Jagan injured after stone thrown in Vijayawada

ENS @ Vijayawada

IN a clear case of security breach, a stone was pelted at Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister **YS Jagan Mohan Reddy** in Vijayawada during his 'Memanta Siddham' bus yatra on Saturday. The YSRC president sustained an injury above his eyebrow and was immediately administered first aid. There was also a mild swelling on his face.

The incident happened around 7.30 pm when Jagan's cavalcade was passing through Kandrika area in Vijayawada Central constituency. The Chief Minister was greeting the people from atop his caravan when a stone hit his forehead. It is suspected that a slingshot was used to pitch the stone at him. Security officials immediately brought Jagan into the caravan. Former minister and YSRC candidate for Vijayawada Central Assembly constituency Velampalle Srinivas also suffered an injury.

Security was beefed up following the incident. However, Jagan continued his roadshow. A senior police officer, part of the CM's security, told that they tracked the route of the stone that hit Jagan. He said they are verifying CCTV footage to identify the miscreants.

EXPRESS READ

Woman, arrested for killing her kids, ends life in custody

Bengaluru: 35-year-old Ganga Devi who was arrested by the Jalahalli police on Wednesday for killing her two children, has commited suicide at the Parappana Agrahara central prison. Devi hung herself with a saree, in the prison toilet. The incident is said to have taken palce on Thursday night. She had killed her nine-year-old daughter Lakshmi and seven-year-old son Gowtham by suffocating them with a pillow after celebrating Ugadi. After killing her children, she had called the emergency number 112, and confessed to the police that she has killed her children and was going to commit suicide. Her husband Naresh is in the Parappana Agrahara central prison in a POCSO case. The complaint against him was filed by his wife accusing him of sexually abusing her nine-year-old daughter.

Lightning claims three lives in Vijayapura

Vijayapura: Light to moderate rain accompanied by lightning and gusty wind claimed the lives of three persons in the district in the past two days. Fifty sheep and two bulls died and standing crops were destroyed in rain-related incidents in Ittangihal, Lalasangi and Shiradon villages. With the mercury levels touching 42 degrees Celsius, the rain on Thursday and Friday brought some respite to people of the district from the searing heat. Local officials said that they have submitted a report on losses due to rain and lightning to the district administration.

15 kids fall ill after eating contaminated food

Yadadribhuvanagiri: As many as 15 students, all studying in Grade 5 and 6, of the Social Welfare Boys' Residential School in Bhuvanagiri fell ill after consuming contaminated food. The students complained of vomiting, stomach ache and diarrhea on Saturday, after they ate lemon rice on Friday morning. The hostel staff shifted the students to the district government hospital where they were provided medical treatment. The condition of two of the students is said to be critical and they are being treated at the Hyderabad Private Hospital.

Ramaiah Memorial Hospital hosts carnival on World Parkinson's Day

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

RAMAIAH Memorial Hospital hosted a carnival called Tulips and Sparks Parkinson's Disease (PD) carnival to celebrate World Parkinson's Day at the hospital campus on Saturday. Over 100 people with Parkinson's disease, their caregivers, doctors, and hospital staff attended the event.

The Carnival aimed to raise awareness about Parkinson's disease, which affects over seven million Indians according to a Lancet study. It featured various fun games and activities tailored to different aspects of managing the condition. The theme of the carnival, tulips, and sparks, symbolized living with hope despite experiencing sudden brain jolts associated with the disorder.

Dr SC Nagendra Swamy, President of the Ramaiah Memorial Hospital, said, "The Tulips and Sparks PD Carnival honours the resilience of our PD warriors as they navigate life's challenges. Our goal is to make this carnival an annual event, raising awareness about Parkinson's disease. We aim to highlight early identification of symptom and effective therapeutic management options."

Dr Anish Mehta, Consultant – Department of Neurology and Movement Disorders specialist at Ramaiah Memorial Hospital, further added, "Parkinson's disease typically strikes individuals over 50 and progresses gradually, causing motor symptoms like tremors, slow movement, and balance issues, along with non-motor symptoms such as anxiety and depression. It results from impaired nerve cells that control movement and reduce dopamine production. Proper care, including diet, medication, exercise, and stress management, is crucial. Surgical options like Deep Brain Stimulation can also enhance patients' quality of life. Staying informed about treatments and symptoms is vital for managing the condition effectively."

A dedicated Parkinson's disease clinic is run every Wednesday from 2 pm–4 pm at the Ramaiah Institute of Neurosciences at Ramaiah Memorial Hospital.

Principal & Dean of Ramaiah Medical College Dr Shalini Nooyi, Dr Sunil V Furtado, Dr Mahendra J V, Dr PT Acharya, Dr Shabari Girishan KV, Dr Medha Y Rao, Dr Madan Gaekwad, Dr Savitha Ravindra Dr Nanda Kumar, and Dr Vaishnavi N Rao at the World Parkinson's Day event hosted at Ramaiah Memorial Hospital on Saturday.

Owaisi rules out alliance with Cong in T'gana

ENS @ Hyderabad

ON the second day of his campaign ahead of the Lok Sabha polls, AIMIM president Asaduddin Owaisi ruled out an alliance with any party, including the ruling Congress in the state.

"It looks like those people who are saying that we have an alliance in Telangana are confused, but we are clear that there is no alliance with any other party," the four-time Hyderabad Parliamentarian said. Recently, Congress leader Feroz Khan, who contested from Hyderabad in 2019 on a Congress ticket, indicated that dosti has been forged between the AIMIM and the grand old party. The ruling Congress in the state has yet to even announce its candidate for the segment.

On Saturday, the AIMIM also extended its support to the AIADMK in the coming Lok Sabha elections. "AIADMK has refused to ally with BJP and has committed to never allying with it in the future. It has also assured that it will oppose CAA, NPR & NRC. Therefore, AIMIM extends its support to AIADMK in the coming Lok Sabha elections. Our alliance will also continue for the Assembly elections," Owaisi said in a post on X.

> Yediyurappa does not want a competitor against his son to be the CM in the future... I am contesting this election to protect Hindutva and save BJP from fathers and sons
>
> KS ESHWARAPPA, BJP LEADER

Why deprive South of LS seats post '26: KBG

Minister alleges BJP govt's conspiracy to snatch region's rights, representation

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

WITH BJP eyeing more seats in southern states in the Lok Sabha polls, Congress in Karnataka has adopted the Tamil Nadu DMK government's strategy and sought Prime Minister Narendra Modi's reply on delimitation of Lok Sabha constituencies.

On the eve of the PM's rally in Mysuru and Mangaluru on Sunday, Congress demanded that Modi promise that LS seats will not get reduced in southern states, including Karnataka, during the delimitation exercise in 2026.

Revenue Minister **Krishna Byre Gowda** on Saturday said the Tamil Nadu government has passed a resolution with the assent of all political parties stating that delimitation should happen on the basis of 1971 census to ensure proportionate representation to the state in the Lok Sabha. "There are 129 LS seats in South India, which will come down to 103 if delimitation happens. The states will be deprived of their rights and representation. Modi should answer this. Though all parties have opposed this, Modi has kept quiet. It is a conspiracy to snatch away our representation and our voice," he said.

He pointed out that then prime minister Indira Gandhi had got the Constitution amended for the delimitation to happen on the basis of the 1971 census and BJP PM Atal Behari Vajpayee too followed it.

"The Modi government hatched a plot to postpone the census which should have happened in 2021 to 2025 to let the amendment expire. It is a conspiracy to go with the delimitation in 2026 to do injustice to southern states. The states have to pay the price for controlling their population," he said.

He drew a parallel to BJP's slogan this time of crossing the 400-seat mark to the saffron party's 'India Shining' campaign in 2004, which saw Congress-led UPA coming to power.

"In 2004, the silent working class majority, farmers and the poor voted BJP out and brought UPA to power. The unspoken people of India can bring down the government as they have given ten years to BJP. People who are the true custodians of democracy, as Nehru said, are not in anybody's pocket," he observed.

On the state government moving the SC seeking its direction to the Centre to release NDRF funds for drought relief, he said the court admitted the case and the next date of hearing is on April 23.

"The attorney general representing the Centre requested the SC with folded hands not to issue a notice and took time. If our memorandum to the Centre had any flaws, he would have raised objections," he said.

MODI-SHAH KEEP UP THE MOMENTUM; RAHUL TO ENTER CONTEST IN SLOG OVERS

DETERMINED to retain a big chunk of seats the party had won in the last Lok Sabha elections, BJP's top leadership is firing on all cylinders. In stark contrast, Congress' star campaigner Rahul Gandhi is yet to enter the electoral battlefield in Karnataka, undoubtedly the most important state for the Grand Old Party, which is struggling in the Hindi heartland.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be back in Karnataka on Sunday. In his third visit to the state since March 16 — when the elections were announced — the PM will address a rally in Mysuru and take part in a roadshow in Mangaluru.

In a strategic move, the PM started his electioneering in the state from AICC chief Mallikarjun Kharge's home district Kalaburgi. Union Home Minister Amit Shah, too, had held a series of meetings, including a BJP-JDS coordination meeting in Bengaluru to iron out differences between the coalition partners. Besides, he has taken part in a roadshow in Bengaluru Rural constituency to push the BJP-JDS campaign on state Congress president DK Shivakumar's home turf.

The BJP central leadership also seems to be closely monitoring the developments in all 28 LS seats as its national general secretary in-charge of Karnataka elections Radha Mohan Das Agrawal has been camping in Bengaluru for nearly two months.

The Congress on its part seems to be largely depending on the state leaders, especially the proven combination of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, to take on the Modi-Shah bandwagon to continue the party's winning streak. Except for Kharge's occasional visits to Karnataka, mostly Bengaluru and Kalaburagi, the central leadership does not seem to be involved much in the campaigning in the state.

Compared to his hectic campaigning in the 2023 assembly polls and 2019 Lok Sabha polls, Rahul Gandhi's absence from the state's political scene this time is conspicuous. His first rally in the state is likely to be in Kolar and Mandya on April 17, just nine days before the high-profile seats in the Old Mysuru region where Congress is facing a stiff fight from the BJP-JDS combine, will go to the polls on April 26.

Many wonder if Rahul Gandhi's delayed entry into the electoral battlefield in Karnataka is a strategic move to let the local satraps set the narratives around local issues. Or, is he too busy focusing on the campaign in North India where the party is not that strong? But, that kind of effort to regain lost ground in UP or other North Indian states is hardly evident in the Congress camp. In contrast, the BJP is making every effort to make inroads into Tamil Nadu, a state that hitherto remained beyond its reach.

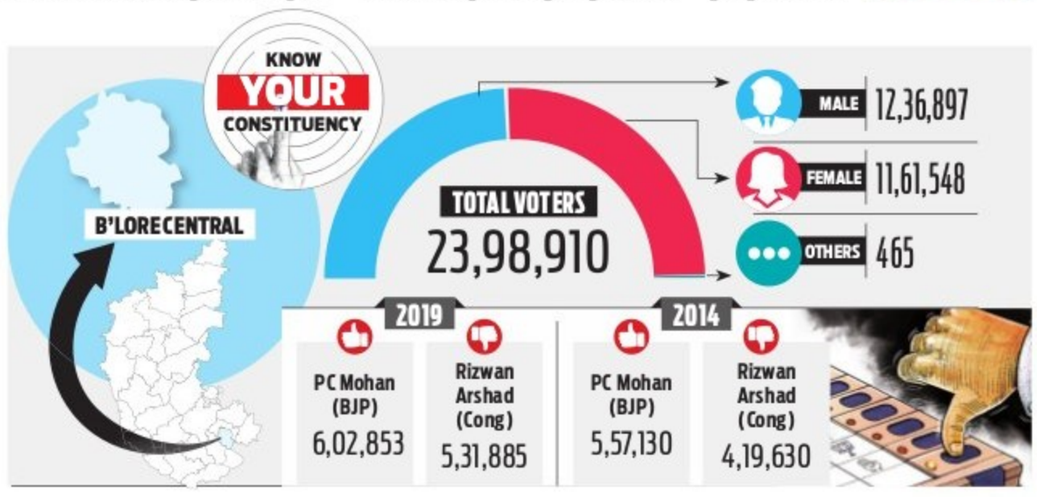
In Karnataka, Congress seems to be working on a nuanced strategy to focus mostly on its five guarantees, State-Centre issues like alleged injustice meted out to Karnataka in tax devolution and drought relief, price rise and unemployment, to drive home its point to the voters. For now, it has stayed away from the BJP's narrative of turning the elections into a leadership contest: Modi Vs Who? That's a no-win situation for Congress or I.N.D.I.A bloc, which does not have a prime ministerial face.

While the party seems to be working on a carefully crafted strategy in Karnataka, Rahul Gandhi's no-holds-barred attack could deviate the focus from the state issues. To a very limited extent, it may even run the risk of projecting the election as a Modi Vs Rahul contest. Also, none of the Congress' central leaders can aggressively speak about the issue of tax devolution as the BJP could use it against Congress in north Indian states.

State Congress Communications Wing chief Ramesh Babu, however, insists that Rahul Gandhi is not late in coming to Karnataka as there is a lot of time available for the campaign since the first phase of polling in the state is on April 26 and the second on May 7. According to Ramesh Babu, apart from Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi-Vadra, Mallikarjun Kharge, I.N.D.I.A bloc leaders Tamil Nadu CM MK Stalin, Akhilesh Yadav, and others will also campaign in Karnataka.

In any case, the onerous task of winning Karnataka yet again rests with Siddaramaiah and DK Shivakumar combo. The challenge is to improve the party's performance substantially by getting double-digits and not just do well in comparison to its worst-ever show of winning just one out of 28 seats in Karnataka in the last Lok Sabha polls. Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar also seem to have been bogged down in their home turfs, at least till the first phase of elections in Karnataka is over on April 26.

In the next few days, a lot depends on the state Congress leaders' ability to stay focused on the State Government's guarantees and issues concerning Karnataka. That is not an easy task given Congress central leaders' propensity to go off at a tangent and get into Modi-bashing, which could prove counter-productive.



WILL MANSOOR PUT BRAKES ON MOHAN'S DREAM RUN?

AKNISREE KARTHIK @Bengaluru

THE prestigious constituency of Bangalore Central, an urban general segment, is witnessing a fight between PC Mohan, the incumbent BJP MP, and Congress' Mansoor Ali Khan. While Mohan is aiming for a fourth consecutive win, Khan is banking on the State Government's guarantee schemes to emerge victorious.

The constituency spans from Mahadevapura in the east to Rajajinagar in the west.

Mohan won with a lead of over 70,000 votes in a triangular fight in the 2019 General Elections beating Congress' Rizwan Arshad and actor Prakash Raj, who contested as an independent. Of the eight Assembly constituencies in Bangalore Central, the Congress won in five constituencies, except CV Ramanagar, Rajajinagar, and Mahadevapura, which should work in Khan's favour.

However, the disunity among the Congress leaders was evident when Khan filed his nomination, as several party leaders gave the event a miss, except for Shivajinagar MLA Rizwan Arshad. Congress sources maintained that they are unhappy with the party fielding a new face. Also, Shantinagar MLA NA Haris was hoping to get a ticket for his son Mohammed Haris Nalapad, sources added.

Both Mohan and Khan are doing roadshows, going on morning walks to parks, talking to vendors on the streets, meeting apartment dwellers, and resident welfare associations, and visiting places of worship to ask for votes in their favour in the constituency.

The constituency is diverse, with a large population of Hindus, Muslims, and Christians, and is also home to a significant population of Tamils and other languages.

On one side, Mohan is sharing that he has been at the forefront of implementing transformative initiatives of Bengaluru in line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visions and advocating projects like Namma Metro and the Sub Urban Rail, batting for better amenities at railway stations and highways, measures towards building modern Bengaluru with electric buses, skywalks, and flyovers to ease congestion.

Khan is telling the voters that the Congress gave five guarantees during last year's Assembly elections, and they were all fulfilled after coming to power, and in the same manner, he would strive to make Bengaluru a sustainable city through eco-friendly practices. He also promises that he will be able to solve the water woes in the city if he is voted to power.

Meanwhile, drinking water and sanitation continue to be major problems in this urban segment. "We come under the Chamarajpet Assembly constituency, which is part of the Bangalore Central Lok Sabha segment. Neither MLA Zameer nor MP Mohan have bothered to put an end to these problems," said Shiva, a resident of Anjanappa Garden. He said that many youth are jobless and that measures should be taken to provide them employment. Voters also complained about the poor public infrastructure in the constituency and want it improved, along with measures to curb the traffic menace in the constituency.

> We come under the Chamarajpet Assembly constituency, which is part of the Bangalore Central Lok Sabha segment. Neither MLA Zameer nor MP Mohan have bothered to put an end to the problems here
>
> Shiva, a resident

REDDY HITS OUT AT TANGADAGI FOR 'SLAP' REMARK

RAMPURA: Gangavathi MLA Gali Janardhana Reddy hit out at Minister of Kannada and Culture Shivaraj Tangadagi on Saturday for his recent remark that youth and students who chant "Modi, Modi" slogans should be slapped. Addressing a BJP campaign at Rampura village in Molakalmuru taluk, Reddy said, "Every vote for the BJP will be a tight slap on the face of Shivaraj Tangadagi. People should turn out in large numbers and vote for the BJP." Tangadagi's remark evoked strong criticism from BJP leaders. "If any students or youths still say 'Modi, Modi' (slogans), they should be slapped. One has to be ashamed. Is it a small thing? They promised two crore jobs a year, it should have been 20 crore jobs now in 10 years," Tangadagi had said. Reddy said that the Congress and I.N.D.I.A. block will not win more than 100 seats. **ENS**

BJP will win all 28 seats in Karnataka: Yediyurappa

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Chitradurga

"CONGRESS is a sinking Ship. Can you tell who is their next PM candidate? There is no one and there will be nobody in the future too," said former chief minister **BS Yediyurappa** at Rampura village of Molakalmuru taluk on Saturday.

Campaigning at the hobli-level, he said, "Narendra Modi will be the Prime Minister for the third time. That is the universal truth."

He asked the audience whether they want to elect a candidate who will sit next to the

Prime Minister or the one who will be part of the opposition benches.

"If you elect BJP candidate Govind Karjol, he will be one in 400. If Congress candidate Chandrappa is elected, he will be one of the 31 MPs who will be elected from the Grand Old Party. BJP will win big numbers from Karnataka," he added.

"At 82, bearing the heat, I am moving across the state to ensure that BJP wins all the 28 seats. I want to meet Modi after June 4 with all the 28 BJP MPs and congratulate him. This is possible if voters of Chitradurga elect Karjol with big majority," he said.

Yediyurappa said Karjol is an experienced politician, who has handled all the portfolios in the state government well. He will work for the real development of Chitradurga constituency and people should vote for him.

He said that Congress is rattled looking at huge turnouts at BJP public meetings.

He questioned Chief Minister Siddaramaiah for stopping Rs 4,000 matching grant of the PM Kissan Samman Yojana, Baghyalaxmi bond and withdrawal of the support price for the milk farmers.

He said the five guarantees are a daylight robbery and the Congress government has pushed Karnataka to bankruptcy. That is the reason developmental projects have taken a backseat, he added.

Hebbalkar must have a peg for good sleep: BJP ex-MLA

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Belagavi

FORMER BJP MLA Sanjay Patil, at a party workers' meeting in Belagavi on Saturday, said Women and Child Welfare Minister **Laxmi Hebbalkar**, whose son Mrinal is contesting the Lok Sabha election from the Belagavi Lok Sabha constituency, should have an extra peg to get a good night's sleep.

"Hebbalkar will not get good sleep looking at the rising support of women for BJP in the Belagavi Rural Assembly constituency. It will also be difficult for her to see Ramesh Jarkiholi campaigning there. She has to have a sleeping pill or an extra peg to get a good night's sleep," he added.

Condemning Patil's statement, Hebbalkar said such comments are nothing but a hidden agenda of BJP.

"The statement is ugly and disrespects the entire womenfolk. Speaking about women in such demeaning terms shows how BJP leaders look at women," she commented.

"Just chanting slogans like Jai Sri Ram and Beti Bachao Beti Padhao does not suffice. The real Hindu culture lies in respecting women. Patil, who is vociferous about Hindu culture and tradition, has insulted all women by issuing such an insensitive statement," she added.

'Silent nod'

In a short video clip released on social media, Hebbalkar gave a call to the womenfolk of the state to reject a party like BJP, which has such an agenda.

"BJP senior leaders like former chief minister Jagadish Shettar and Belagavi MP Mangala Angadi too were present on the dais when Patil made the statement. They did not condemn it, but kept quiet, giving it a silent nod," she stated in the video.

A senior citizen casts her vote at home, as poll officials and family members look on, in Bengaluru on Saturday | EXPRESS

4,459 VOTE FROM HOME ON 1st DAY IN BENGALURU

BENGALURU: As per the Election Commission of India schedule, Vote From Home (VFH) under Phase-2 voting started from Saturday. As per information from the office of the district returning officer of Bengaluru, 4,459 people voted in the three Parliamentary constituencies of Bengaluru district - Bangalore North, South and Central. While 1,337 people voted from Bangalore Central (74.82%), 985 voted in Bangalore North (54.83%), and 1,313 voted in Bangalore South (59.04%). In Bangalore Urban, comprising Mahadevapura, Byatarayanapura, Dasarahalli, Yashwanthpur, Anekal, Bangalore South and Yelahanka - a total of 824 people voted, which is 40.31%. As per information, 16 voters were absent and two had refused to vote. The officials also reported 18 deaths. Under phase-2 elections, a total of five days have been allocated for people aged above 85 and for people with disabilities (PwD) to vote from home. They are given postal ballot facility at their door steps. **ENS**

Pick either polls or peetha: Devotees tell Dingaleshwar seer

RAGHOTTAM KOPPAR @Gadag

DEVOTEES of Dingaleshwar seer have requested him to rethink his decision to contest the Lok Sabha election. The seer is contesting against Union Minister Pralhad Joshi from the Hubballi-Dharwad constituency, alleging that the latter has neglected the Lingayat community. The devotees said they have decided to wait till April 18 and if he still wants to contest, he should leave the Shirahatti Fakireshwar mutt.

"The peetha is famous for communal harmony and the seer should show the way to devotees, and not enter politics. If Union Minister Pralhad Joshi has meted out injustice to Lingayats, the seer should expose it. Contesting the polls is not good for a seer," they said.

Ganganna Mahantshettar, Venkanagouda Govindgoudar and other devotees of the mutt from Gadag, Lakshmeshwar and other parts held a series of

meetings from Friday and decided to wait till April 18. The devotees also warned that they will choose another seer if Dingaleshwar seer wants to contest the polls.

Move a shock

The move came as a shock to the swamiji. But the devotees said he can still continue to head the peetha, provided he changes his mind.

A devotee, Venkanagouda Govindgoudar, said, "Seers should not enter politics and be part of any one party. They are there for people of communities and they should show the path to others and be a role model. Dingaleshwar seer still has time and can rethink his decision. The polls should not be used to take revenge or express anger. This is democracy. The seer should rethink his decision or we will take a decision on April 18."

Former MLA Ganganna Mahantshettar said, "Mutts should create awareness on religious issues and not indulge in politics. If Dingaleshwar seer wants to contest, he has to remove his saffron robes and leave the peetha."

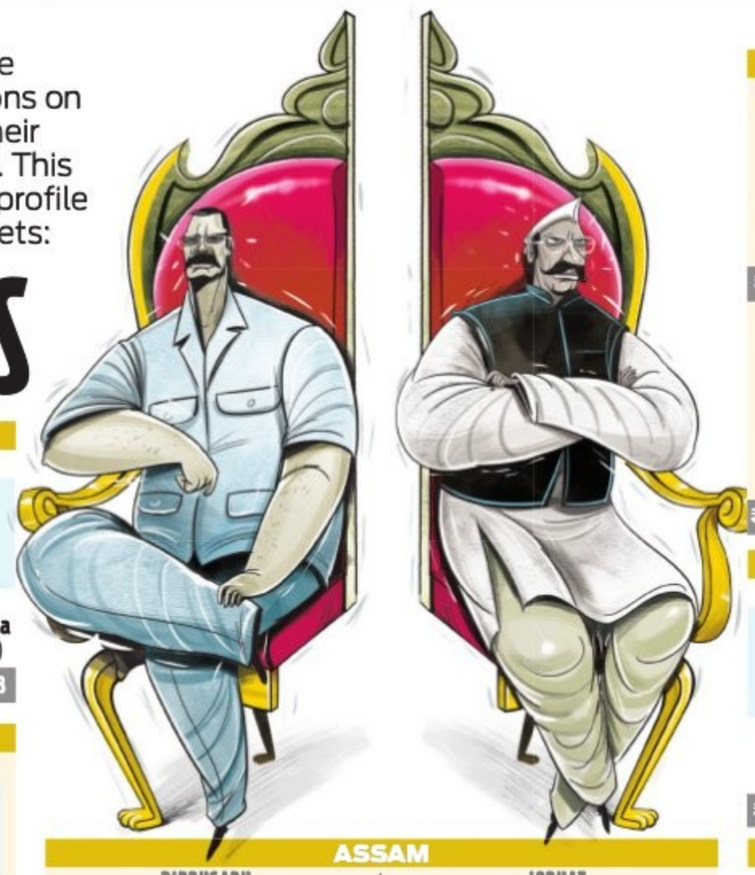
> Seers should not enter politics and be part of any one party. They are there for people of communities and they should show the path to others and be a role model
>
> Venkanagouda Govindgoudar, a devotee

They call us dynasts and they call us corrupt. The fact is that our family has served the country for generations. Our family has made sacrifices for the country. None of my family members has held any position of power for the last 30 years.

Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, Congress leader

Out of around 1,618 candidates set to face the people's mandate in the first phase of elections on April 19, 450, or 28%, are crorepatis, as per their affidavits filed with the Election Commission. This newspaper takes a look at some of the high-profile seats going to polls, key players and their assets:

OVER TO BALLOTS



MAHARASHTRA
NAGPUR

Nitin Gadkari (BJP)	Vikas Thakre (INC)
₹28,03,17,321	₹10,07,56,481

CHANDRAPUR

Dhanorkar Pratibha Suresh Alias Balubhau (INC)	Mungantiwar Sudhir Sacchidanand (BJP)
₹80,37,22,094	₹17,65,64,907

BIHAR
GAYA

Jitan Ram Manjhi HAM(S)	Kumar Sarvjeet (RJD)
₹30,20,578	₹11,90,61,473

BENGAL
COOCH BEHAR

Nisith Pramanik (BJP)	Jagadish Chandra Barma Basunia (AITC)
₹1,05,12,699	₹2,69,07,638

MANIPUR
INNER MANIPUR

Thounaojam Basanta Kumar Singh (BJP)	Angomcha Bimol Akoijam (INC)
₹5,34,94,225	₹97,67,556

OUTER MANIPUR (ST)

Alfred Kanngam S Arthur (INC)	Kachui Timothy Zimik (Naga Peoples Front)
₹55,53,26,115	₹5,41,96,144

ASSAM
DIBRUGARH

Sarbananda Sonowal (BJP)	Manoj Dhanowar (AAP)
₹4,75,85,258	₹9,32,30,440

JORHAT

Gaurav Gogoi (INC)	Topon Kumar Gogoi (BJP)
₹4,90,61,120	₹3,22,98,139

ARUNACHAL PRADESH
ARUNACHAL EAST

Tapir Gao (BJP)	Bosiram Siram (INC)
₹15,05,37,706	₹17,44,89,335

ARUNACHAL WEST

Nabam Tuki (INC)	Kiren Rijiju (BJP)
₹62,10,25,404	₹4,94,03,234

MEGHALAYA
SHILLONG

Vincent H Pala (INC)	Dr Mazel Ampareen Lyngdoh (NPP)
₹1,25,81,59,331	₹2,22,13,833

CHHATTISGARH
BASTAR

Kawasi Lakhma (INC)	Mahesh Kashyap (BJP)
₹2,41,37,757	₹39,67,309

MADHYA PRADESH
CHHINDWARA

Nakul Nath (INC)	Bunty Vivek Sahu (BJP)
₹7,16,94,05,139	₹36,77,31,210

MANDLA-ST

Faggan Singh Kulaste (BJP)	Omkar Singh Markam (INC)
₹5,35,26,381	₹1,41,09,180

SHAHDOL-ST

Himadri Singh (BJP)	Phunde Lal Singh Marko (INC)
₹5,01,80,267	₹2,68,19,032

SIDHI

Kamleshwar Indrajit Kumar (INC)	Dr Rajesh Mishra (BJP)
₹39,02,56,920	₹14,40,08,066

JAMMU & KASHMIR
UDHAMPUR

Dr Jitendra Singh (BJP)	Ch Lal Singh (INC)
₹8,59,05,005	₹3,50,13,425

UTTAR PRADESH
KAIRANA

Pradeep Kumar (BJP)	Sripal Singh (BSP)
₹2,55,64,752	₹3,76,96,700

Iqra Hasan (SP) ₹68,74,858

RAMPUR

Ghanshyam Singh Lodhi (BJP)	Zeeshan Khan (BSP)
₹3,30,08,926	₹13,31,038

MUZAFFARNAGAR

Sanjeev Kumar Balyan (BJP)	Dara Singh Prajapati (BSP)
₹3,01,94,902	₹21,77,77,737

Harendra Singh Malik (SP) ₹9,07,80,765

PILIBHIT

Jitin Prasada (BJP)	Anis Ahmed Khan (BSP)
₹29,89,25,408	₹7,45,21,063

HOW RICH IS RICH? TAKE A GUESS

Among the candidates contesting in the first phase, 12 per cent, or about 193 out of the 1,618 candidates have declared assets worth ₹5 crore or above. Similarly, 139 candidates, or 9 per cent in fray have sworn properties valued between ₹2 crore and ₹5 crore; 277 candidates or 17 per cent with assets worth between ₹50 lakh and ₹2 crore; 436 candidates or 27 per cent with assets worth between ₹10 lakh and ₹50 lakh; and 573 or 35 per cent of candidates with assets valued less than ₹10 lakh. The richest among the candidates is Congress' Chhindwara MP Nakul Kamal Nath.

CHHATTISGARH

Rahul goes to Bastar, says Cong committed to caste survey

Modi-led regime and the RSS are aiming to knock down the Constitution but the Congress remains firm to protect it along with other democratic forces
Rahul Gandhi

PROMISE

Rahul Gandhi said if the Congress is voted to power, it will make recruitments to 30 lakh vacant government posts, start apprenticeships for the youth. All educated youth will get a year's apprenticeship in government or private firms, and ₹1 lakh annual stipend," he said

EJAZ KAISER @ Raipur

CONGRESS leader Rahul Gandhi on Saturday said the Lok Sabha polls are an ideological war to protect the Constitution and democracy.

"Modi-led regime and the RSS are aiming to knock down the Constitution but the Congress remains firm to protect it along with other democratic forces," Gandhi said at a poll rally in Bastar, one the four reserved tribal seats in Chhattisgarh.

Highlighting how the Congress brought in Panchayat Extension to Scheduled Areas Act to safeguard the tribal rights, anti-poverty scheme MGNREGA, tribal rights and land acquisition bills, Rahul Gandhi hit out at the BJP for calling the "adivasi" as "vanvasi".

"The BJP discredits tribal communities as the expression vanvasi is also an attack on their culture, history, beliefs and rights," he said, "We call them adivasi that signifies the original inhabitants with rights over jal, jungle, zameen. Congress intends to give you (tribals) your deserving rights."

Rahul Gandhi during a public meeting in Chhattisgarh's Bastar on Saturday | PTI

Gandhi said if the Congress is voted to power, it will conduct a caste census. "We will make recruitments to 30 lakh vacant government posts, start apprenticeships for the youth. Youth will be given the right to apprenticeship before getting a job. All the educated youth will get one year's apprenticeship in government or private companies, and ₹1 lakh annual stipend," he said and promised to abolish contractual recruitment in government companies and waive crop loans.

ELECTION2024

Cong lodges complaint over firing at election meeting

The Manipur Congress on Saturday requested the Chief Electoral Officer to take action against anti-social elements who allegedly opened fire during the campaign of its Inner Manipur candidate Angomcha Bimol Akoijam at Phairembam in Bishnupur district. Around 500 people were gathered at about 3.30 pm, when unknown persons fired gunshots.

BJD says Sambit Patra violated MCC, moves EC

The BJD on Saturday approached Election Commission accusing BJP nominee for Puri Lok Sabha constituency, Sambit Patra, of violating the model code of conduct. The petition submitted by the BJD said that Patra and his team distributed clocks adorned with the BJP logo, lotus symbol and Patra's photograph to shopkeepers.

Case against Brij Bhushan for model code violation in Katra

A case for violation of the model code of conduct and prohibitory orders was on Saturday filed against BJP's Kaiserganj MP Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh. District Magistrate Neha Sharma said the MP visited several villages in the Katra assembly segment of his constituency with a convoy of about 25-30 vehicles on Friday without permission.

ALWAR SEAT

Shah says BJP backs quota, takes on Cong over nepotism

RAJESH ASNANI @ Jaipur

STOUTLY defending the government's reservation schemes, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, at a rally in Rajasthan's Alwar, launched a scathing attack on Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi, accusing them of nepotism.

"While Prime Minister Modi advocates 'Beti Bachao-Beti Padhao' (protect and educate daughter), Congress seems to have only one agenda, 'Son bachao and make him PM'. Sonia Gandhi's singular focus is on propelling Rahul to the PM's chair, neglecting the aspirations of the youth," Shah said.

Shah likened Rahul to a project that has been launched multiple times but has failed. "Rahul has been launched 20 times and failed every time. The Congress now struggles even to launch him," he said.

Addressing concerns about the BJP's stance on reservation, Shah said, "The BJP staunchly supports reservation for Dalits, tribals and backward classes. The Congress is spreading misinformation that we intend to abolish reservation. The Prime Minister himself is a strong advocate for reservation."

Shah's assertion came in the backdrop of the Congress' election manifesto promise of bringing a constitutional amendment to raise the 50 per cent cap on reservations for SCs, STs and OBCs. The Congress has also said a caste census will be undertaken if it is voted to power.

Home Minister Amit Shah with other BJP leaders at a rally in Alwar on Saturday | x

The BJP leader alleged that the Congress did injustice to the backward classes for years. "It kept the Kaka Kalelkar report suppressed, kept the Mandal Commission report suppressed. Modi came and worked to give constitutional recognition to the OBC Commission. "Modi has done the work of giving 27% reservation to the OBC community in all recruitments at the Centre," Shah said.

Shah lamented Alwar constituency's links to the incidents of cow slaughter in recent years. He also mentioned the controversial Eastern Rajasthan Canal Project scheme (ERCP) aimed at supplying water to Alwar. "The ERCP is going to be completed soon. This is a guarantee of the Modi government," he said.

Shah asserted that the BJP government in Rajasthan has moved towards ensuring women's safety and ending appeasement. He also highlighted the association of BJP's Alwar candidate Bhupender Yadav with him both in the party organisation and the government.

Bhupender Yadav was nominated from the seat after the previous Alwar MP Mahant Balaknath won the assembly elections held recently. Yadav will be contesting against Congress candidate Lalit Yadav, who has secured victory in the seat 11 times. Lalit has labelled Bhupendra, originally from Ajmer, as an outsider.

QUOTE CORNER

Does the PM know that Durga puja and Kali puja rituals are not complete without 'maach' (fish) and 'mangshho' (meat) in many Hindu households? What will his minister Nisith Pramanik say about this?
— Abhishek Banerjee, TMC leader

Nakul Nath would be a hit wicket or he will be clean bowled by the public. He says he works for 12 days and enjoys for five years. If you want a hard-working MP, shunt out the one who believes in enjoying
— Anurag Thakur, BJP leader and Union minister

Cong manifesto axed CAA in last hour

PREETHA NAIR @ New Delhi

AFTER mounting fierce attacks against the Modi government on implementing the contentious CAA, the Congress appears to have developed cold feet on the law in its recent election manifesto.

Though 'repealing and amending of CAA' figured in the original draft of the manifesto, the top leadership of the party decided to drop it just before releasing the document, said sources. Instead, the party made an omnibus promise in the manifesto that it would repeal all anti-people laws passed by the NDA if the INDIA bloc came to power.

"The original draft of the manifesto said that the draconian CAA would be repealed and amended. However, at the last minute, they decided not to list any laws and dropped the mention of CAA," said a leader.

However, when asked about nixing the CAA, a member of the manifesto committee told this paper that under a section called 'reversing the damage', the party had promised to repeal various anti-people laws passed by the BJP/NDA without proper parliamentary scrutiny and debate. However, in this section, the party talked about reviewing and amending laws relating to workers, farmers, criminal justice, environment & forests, and digital data protection. The section has no mention of repealing CAA.

After the Union government notified the CAA on January 10, Congress MP Shashi Tharoor said that the opposition would challenge the law in the Supreme Court, and dubbed it as unconstitutional. Tharoor also asserted that in the Congress manifesto, they will promise the repeal of the CAA, if the INDIA alliance comes to power. The silence of the party on the CAA in its manifesto has become a bone of contention between the Congress and the ruling CPI(M) in Kerala.

Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan has been consistently attacking the Congress that the silence on the issue reflects its fear of speaking about the contentious Act.

POLL PROMISE

BJP, if voted to power, will rationalise fertiliser subsidy

JITENDRA CHOUBEY @ New Delhi

RATIONALISING chemical fertiliser subsidies will be one of the top priorities of the BJP if it gets elected again in the Lok Sabha elections and forms a government at the Centre for a third consecutive term.

According to party sources, the Soil Health Card — a printed report containing soil nutrient status — will also be linked with fertiliser subsidies.

Earlier, the government was forced to take a U-turn on three contentious agriculture market reform laws following a year-long farmers' agitation.

India's total agriculture subsidies are about to touch 4 trillion, or 2 per cent of the GDP. Of this, the fertilisers comprise around 1.75 trillion, which comes to around 44 per cent of total agriculture subsidy.

"If the Narendra Modi government repeats its performance during the last two elections, the government will bring agriculture reforms to the centre stage, especially in the fertilisers subsidy," said a senior government officer in the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare. The government is looking for optimisation of fertiliser use and restoring soil nutrient balance, he said, adding, "This term of the Modi government will be considered as an endorsement of his agriculture reform efforts sidelined by the farmers' protests."

The government will take a multi-pronged strategy, including increasing investments in biofertilisers and biopesticides, and linking the subsidy with the 11.69 crore soil health cards already distributed.

The government has also long been under pressure from the World Trade Organisation to rationalise its chemical fertiliser subsidy, distorting the market and causing harmful impacts. In the current system, all farmers get subsidised chemical fertilisers irrespective of the soil health.

"The government will link the Aadhaar number with soil health cards and allocate fertilisers as a requirement of the field. For instance, if a field has enough nitrogen content, the nitrogen urea subsidy will be reduced. Besides, a method of incentivisation has also been devised to pay back farmers as ecosystem conservation service," said the officer.

It is the time of fear. Women's fear of violent men, and men's fear of fearless women

Eduardo Galeano

MATTHEW EFFECT AND INFLATIONARY GEOPOLITICS

THE THIRD EYE

SHANKKAR AIYAR
Author of *The Gated Republic*, *Aadhaar: A Biometric History of India's 12 Digit Revolution*, and *Accidental India*
(shankkar.aiyar@gmail.com)

IT is not often that an epigrammatic expression from a spiritual text migrates to the material world to emerge as a popular idiom. The Gospel of Matthew (25:29) states, "For to everyone who has, more shall be given." The text underlines the spiritual quest to value divine blessings. In 1829, the poet P B Shelley found political context and used it to frame the construct of 'the rich get richer'. A century later, American sociologist Robert K Merton deployed the sentiments to coin the Matthew Effect to explain the gaps in recognition received by the eminent and the unknown. The concept has since morphed to reflect the phenomenon of those with advantage accumulating greater advantage.

The Matthew Effect is manifest across the global economy—at the individual and institutional levels. Theory has it that inflation and higher interest rates are hostile to wealth creation. That doesn't quite play out in the real world of financial assets. To quote Shelley, the rich are getting richer. In 2023, the net worth of the world's billionaires went up by over $2 trillion. And it is rising. The Bloomberg Billionaires Index shows that in the first 100 days of 2024, the wealth of the world's 200 richest folks went up by nearly $450 billion and the net worth of Indian dollar billionaires shot up by over $75 billion.

The impact is visible in data on inequality—the wealth of the top 1 percent in the US hit a record $44.6 trillion. And it is not just in the US. In the past 12 months, the US Fed Funds Rate—effectively the benchmark for global interest rates—has been around 5 percent. Yet indices in the US, Japan, UK, Europe and India are hovering at all-time highs. The combination of rising stock valuations and higher interest rates are a force multiplier for the Matthew Effect as returns on cash and investments boost wealth.

On Wednesday, when the US Bureau of Labour Statistics released the data on consumer price inflation, it was 8.30 am in New York, 2.30 pm in Frankfurt and 6 pm in Mumbai. A loud thud echoed in markets across time zones. The case for three cuts in 2024 has shrivelled to one or none—indeed, Larry Summers suspects the next Fed move could well be a rate hike. Decoupling from the US theme song of higher-for-longer could threaten currencies—the Japanese yen, for instance, is at a 34-year low, the euro and pound are languishing as the Dollar Index strengthens. Unsurprisingly, the Bank of England and ECB lean on data dependence when asked about rate cuts.

The price for persistent inflation in developed nations is being paid by developing nations. Higher inflation in the US has dashed hopes of an early rate cut in India, too, potentially pushing up the cost of infra investments. While India is better placed in terms of the pace of growth, GDP data shows consumption is hurting, thanks to the higher cost of living. The effect, an IMF report reveals, is worse on the Global South—higher cost of capital and sovereign debt affect financial sector stability.

The expansion of the Matthew Effect is propelled by the role of inflationary geopolitics. The globalisation of grief originated in the developed world in 2020. The cause of inflation stemmed from the trillions poured in as stimulus by the rich world. What worsened it was the delay in addressing it. Aggravation arrived with the invasion of Ukraine by Russia resulting in a blow-up of energy and food prices. While inflation in advanced economies is slowing, that is not the picture in less advanced economies—food price inflation in many developing economies is in double digits as per the World Bank.

The fact that inflation is persistent despite the fastest-paced steepest hikes is again the consequence of fiscal policies afflicted by geopolitics. The return of industrial policy across Europe and the US—effectively reshoring in the guise of supply chain resilience—has resulted in fiscal expansionism. For instance, in the US, the government has spent roughly $50 billion to woo investments via the Inflation Reduction Act—it agreed to fork out $11.6 billion to TSMC and $6.6 billion to Samsung for chip manufacturing. The fiscal deficit in the US is nearing 7 percent, translating into a trillion dollars being added to national debt every 100 days. The privilege of being the reserve currency, again a facet of the Matthew Effect, emboldens this approach.

The revival of industrial policy has triggered protectionism—subsidies for made in Europe or made in America products are effectively non-tariff barriers and there is no running away from the fact that this is inflationary geopolitics. The US, for instance, has continued with Trump era tariffs even in the Biden era. Now, candidate Trump, who called India "tariff king", is promising reciprocal tariff and across-the-board import tariffs of 10 percent even if it means higher inflation.

The fight against inflation is and will be daunted by rising spend on defence. A good tracker of angst is the price of gold—its recent rise began in October 2023 following the Israel-Hamas war and is now at a historic high of $2,343. This weekend, the world is gripped by anxiety on a possible retaliation by Iran following Israel's attack on its embassy. Inflationary geopolitics is defining the trajectory of cost of capital and riveting the Matthew Effect.

E24: SEEKING MANDATE FOR ME AND MYSELF

POWER & POLITICS

PRABHU CHAWLA
prabhuchawla@newindianexpress.com
Follow him on X @PrabhuChawla

POLITICS is woven with extremes, a pastiche of memory and forgetfulness. In December 1988, winter was sweeping through North India. Warmed by Tamil Nadu's tropical weather, Rajiv Gandhi, prime minister and Congress chief, was stumping for G K Moopanar, the party's chief ministerial candidate—the assembly elections were on. Rajiv entered a small, ramshackle hut in a remote hamlet. Moopanar asked the old woman living there whether she recognised Rajiv. Promptly came the response: "Yes, he is Indira amman's son. Who are you?"

Her answer captured the paradox of both individual and dynastic aristocracy in the Congress and other parties in India. Voters knew the prime minister, but not the regional leader. The outcome in Tamil Nadu proved the point. The Congress won only 26 out of the 234 assembly seats with less than 20 percent votes. But 2024 isn't 1989. However, the mood in almost in all states reflects the same memory algorithm. From Itanagar in the East to Thiruvananthapuram in the South, voters immediately connect with the omnipresent Narendra Modi. But more than half of them aren't plugged into the BJP or the local candidate of the world's largest political party.

For the first time, the general elections are taking place without a national thematic charter. While the issues vary marginally from region to region, individual supremacy is the new normal. The medium, the message and the messenger are all rolled into one. At the national level, Modi carries the message as the messenger and the medium. His road shows, land-and-fly-again rallies, selective interactions with influencers and celebs are choreographed to convey his idea and ideology more than of the party he leads. In these interactions, adherents expound on his personality, demeanour and mental prowess rather than on his ideological insights. This strategy has paid him rich dividends, and perhaps may again for a record third time.

If imitation is a form of flattery, in politics it is a form of strategy. So many regional seneschals are photocopies of the Modi mould. The local electoral narrative doesn't revolve around alternative models of governance, but on regional leaders. In West Bengal, Mamata Banerjee is the Trinamool Congress chief, chief minister and messenger; the vote is either for her or against her. In Karnataka, it is for D K Shivakumar. Tamil Nadu will plump for Chief Minister M K Stalin. Delhi will be for or against the incarcerated Arvind Kejriwal, and in Punjab the mandate will be for Bhagwant Mann.

SOURAV ROY

The other ballot balladeers are Tejashwi Yadav in Bihar, Revanth Reddy in Andhra and Pinarayi Vijayan in Kerala. Sadly and strangely, both Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi haven't become alternative messengers with an alternative message. For all parties, the issues are incidental and accidental, to be raised only when absolutely necessary or to divert attention. The tone, tenor, tenacity and intensity of the political discourse vary from region to region.

In **North India**, culture, politics and religion are the hunting grounds for the divide-and-rule model. In almost 60 percent of the Lok Sabha seats, the contest is mainly between the traditional rivals BJP and Congress, with the exception of UP and Bihar. Barring UP, where Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath is the key player, only Modi matters in the remaining states. Chief ministers are only symbolic second engines.

In all states, the BJP is playing the development card, but ultimately its campaign revolves around Hindutva and nationalism. The uniting thread is Modi's decisiveness: scrapping Article 370, Ram mandir, keeping Pakistan on a leash, and minimising terror by highly publicised arrests. BJP CMs are stage cutouts on the prime minister's rally platforms. On the other hand, Akhilesh, Tejashwi, Mann, Kejriwal, the Abdullahs and Mehbooba are offering themselves as local substitutes for Modi.

South India, with 130 seats, is the only battleground where Modi is pitted directly against powerful local chieftains. Hence he visits the Southern states more. His target of 370 seats for the BJP primarily depends on the electoral outcomes in these five states. The BJP hasn't created a local leader with a state-wide following. Though K Annamalai, a former IPS officer, has captured media attention, he is yet to acquire reasonable acceptability on the ground. While there is a visible surge in Modi's personal popularity, the lotus is yet to bloom in the consciousness of Tamils and Malayali voters.

The Rising Sun (DMK) and the Two Leaves (AIADMK) enjoy maximum recall value in TN. Stalin is the tallest Dravidian leader after the death of Karunanidhi and Jayalalithaa. The BJP tried to put the DMK on the back foot by raising the Katchatheevu issue, which failed. In Kerala, the BJP made a similar attempt against the Congress and the Left by promoting The Kerala Story, a film projecting Muslim dominance in 'god's own country'. The BJP's homegrown leaders are no match for Telangana CM Revanth Reddy, Andhra's Jagan Reddy and the Siddaramaiah-Shivakumar combo. In South India, it is Modi vs the rest.

In **West India**, Gujarat and Maharashtra are dependent on Modi magic. Maharashtra CM Eknath Shinde and his deputies Devendra Fadnavis and Ajit Pawar are being exposed as weak opponents to the combined strength of Uddhav Thackeray, Sharad Pawar and the Congress. The trio have more cadre power than the splintered NCP and Shiv Sena. But their speeches are bereft of real issues; the emphasis is more about *parivarvad* and corruption. The BJP has left it to Modi to demolish their popularity. Maharashtra will play an important role in deciding the winner.

East India is another palatine of this paradigm. While the BJP holds sway in the smaller states, Odisha will see a clash of the titans. Though Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik enjoys a cordial relationship with Modi, for the first time, the BJP has become a serious challenger to the BJD's over-quarter-century supremacy. Of Odisha's 21 seats, the BJP's target is to win 15. Team Naveen is determined to prove that the Patnaik magic will prevail over Modi's charisma. For the past five years, the BJP and its leaders have made more visits to West Bengal than to all other states put together. Meanwhile, Modi is connecting with Bengal with the Hindutva magnet and anti-corruption rhetoric.

It seems evident that Election 24 is not a campaign to make India a better place and strengthen its democratic foundations. It is a vicious war between individual leaders to enlarge their fiefdoms and politically eliminate adversaries who don't conform to their ideology and idiom. The final outcome will decide whether India is a land where diversity unites it politically and culturally. It is the age of personalisation of ideology worldwide. Modi straddles India as its principal paragon and the regional rajas are sticking to the same script. Wait for the credits to roll when May ends.

POLL PASSIONS ON THE BIG SCREEN

OPINION

NAMRATA JOSHI
Consulting Editor
Follow her on X @Namrata_Joshi

WHILE many debates have been raging about the transparency of electronic voting machines as opposed to the traditional ballot paper system, Shah Rukh Khan starrer *Jawan* (2023) EVMs under the arc light on the big screen. It showed them as easy to pilfer, but also deployed them in sending the message out to the people to exercise their franchise with care; to not get swayed by caste and religion, demand basics like education and healthcare, and to vote responsibly for the right candidate.

Talking of the right candidate, back in 2017, in Rahul Dholakia's *Raees*, SRK as the titular Robinhood-like, criminal-messiah figure is shown winning the polls despite being behind bars, all because of a sympathy wave among the masses.

These are two of the many Bollywood films down the years in which elections and their inherent incongruities have played on in the background. While political issues like corruption, both systemic and individual, have been underscored time and again, there are just a handful of films where the actual process of voting has been foregrounded and probed. Polls, like all else in cinema, are treated in a generic and simplistic manner rather than bringing out their specifics and complexities.

Tamil cinema—which steals a march over Bollywood on several counts, including on its political acuity—boasts of a film on electoral fraud, A R Murugadoss's *Sarkar* (2018), with superstar Vijay underscoring an individual's right to vote. The same year, Vijay Deverakonda made his Tamil debut with Anand Shankar's tantalisingly titled *NOTA*, which was less about the process of voting and more about the machinations of parties in forcing chief ministership on a reluctant youngster.

Madonne Ashwin's *Mandela* (2021), a persuasive satire, dealt with vote bank politics and how caste becomes the determinant in panchayat elections in a small Tamil Nadu village.

Khalid Rahman's critically acclaimed *Unda* (2019), with Mammootty in the lead, was inspired from a real incident at the 2014 Lok Sabha election when a group of Kerala cops were sent on duty to the Naxal-affected areas in Chhattisgarh without sufficient ammunition.

In Hindi cinema, 89-year-old Gulzar is a rare filmmaker who has consistently engaged with electoral issues, right from his debut feature *Mere Apne* (1971) to his last film as a director, *Hu Tu Tu* (1999). While the former deals with youth unrest, unemployment and the political exploitation of the young, the latter touches upon electoral issues with the stridently political parlance of its soundtrack. The songs '*Ghapla hai*' speaks of corruption, '*Bandobast*' deals with the plight of farmers, and '*Jaago jaago jaagte raho*' is about divisive politics.

In 1975, Gulzar created a stir with *Aandhi*, supposedly based on the life of the then Odisha Chief Minister Nandini Satpathy. Though set in the thick of an election campaign, the film looks more at the personal ramifications of the political, and how it strains the ties between a politician and her husband. The most significant aspect is its cynical election song, '*Salaam keejiye aali janaab aaye hain, ye paanch saalon ka dene hisaab aaye hain*', that talks about the five-yearly accountability of politicians.

Tamil and Hindi filmmakers have often put elections in the middle of their scripts, from A R Murugadoss to Madonne Ashwin, and Gulzar to Anurag Kashyap. But few have dealt with the process of voting itself

Like Gulzar, politics has been an integral part of Anurag Kashyap's cinema—be it *Black Friday* (2004), *Gangs of Wasseypur* (2012) or *Mukkabaaz* (2017). His most direct film on electoral politics, *Gulaal* (2009), is about a political party in formation. Set in Rajasthan, it touches upon issues as diverse as college politics, the fading aristocracy, vote banks and separatist movements. Sahir Ludhianvi's classic from Guru Dutt's *Pyaasa* (1957)—'*Ye duniya agar mil bhi jaaye*', reinterpreted by Piyush Mishra as '*O ri duniya*'—continues to resonate today.

Preceding *Gulaal* was Tigmanshu Dhulia's debut feature *Haasil* (2003), by far the most incisive look at student politics in Indian cinema that was set in the Allahabad University campus. Later, he went deeper into politics with *Saheb Biwi aur Gangster* (2011), about a royal family member who desperately courts politics to maintain his eroding stature.

There have also been Anusha Rizvi's *Peepli Live* (2010) to Shyam Benegal's *Welcome to Sajjanpur* (2008), that have talked about significant rural issues in the light of elections. Election campaigns and speeches have been the narrative mainstay in Nitesh Tiwari's *Bhoothnath Returns* (2014), Prakash Jha's *Raajneeti* (2010) and A L Vijay's *Thalaivii* (2021).

Amit Masurkar's *Newton* (2017), set over one day in a polling booth in conflict-ridden Chhattisgarh, has been Indian cinema's most authentic representation of the electoral process in the hinterland. It is about an idealistic polling officer's quest to conduct fair polls despite the odds. Opposed to him is the apathetic CRPF commandant who regards polling as a sham that no one truly cares about. Caught between the two are the residents exercising their right. The irony couldn't have been starker.

QUOTE CORNER

After years of negotiations, EU institutions are now shamefully co-signing an agreement that they know will lead to greater human suffering... Europe has missed a vital opportunity to build a migration and asylum system that places human rights at the centre, and to unconditionally uphold people's human right to seek asylum no matter where they come from or how they have arrived.

Eve Geddie, Amnesty International's head of EU and director of advocacy, on the recently-passed major reforms to EU's policy on irregular migration

I don't have any files for you. And I'm keeping the fifteen dollars.

Jeremy Rosenberg, who was mistakenly served a subpoena for documents by Donald Trump's legal team; it was meant for another person of the same name

It helps knowing there is an expiry date. With my decision, I was convinced we would be where we are now. If I hadn't made it, it would have been a disaster.

Xavi Hernández, Barcelona coach on his decision to step down this summer

MAILBAG

WRITE TO letters@newindianexpress.com

Reinvent Congress

K M Chandrasekhar's column on the grand old party made for a good read. Having outlived its utility with the attainment of freedom, the Congress should have been disbanded in deference to the Mahatma's wishes. But now, its waning as an opposition force will only vitiate the atmosphere. The grand old party should reinvent itself as a credible centrist organisation drawing upon Indian values and wedded to 'true' secularism that appeals to Hindus and non-Hindus alike.

M Bharath Das, Thalassery

Late wisdom

The columnist is correct in assessing the attitude of the Congress towards the INDIA bloc. Following the Karnataka victory, the party thought it could single-handedly defeat the BJP. So it cold-shouldered allies. By the time the party realised its folly following the defeat in MP, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh, it was too late. Wisdom, of course, comes late.

M Haneef, Kottayam

Leadership options

Shashi Tharoor has rightly pointed out in his column that it's time to think about accepting leaders without borders. The possibilities are there. But am afraid the people may not accept such leaders. As we read ancient history, we see examples of kings who did wonderful things for the people of a country they had captured by war. In India today, a rigid 10-year rule must be implemented for leaders to bring back democracy.

Indra Getzy David, Tirunelveli

Everyone's lord

Religion is a matter of personal belief. But today we have the BJP posing as a self-proclaimed custodian of the Hindu faith. Who gave them this right is not known. Religion is not about one-upmanship. This is a naive approach to faith. After the Ayodhya temple inauguration, it is being made out to be that Lord Ram belongs exclusively to the saffron parivar. Lord Ram belongs to all Hindus and how they pray to him is up to each individual.

S Kamat, Mysuru

Seat safety

Shashi Tharoor is dead right that the Left campaign against him is going to help the BJP candidate in his constituency. It is going to be more so in Wayanad, where Rahul Gandhi is contesting a Left leader. This is like the story of two monkeys fighting over a bun and the mediator cat gulping it. Rahul should have preferred to return to Amethi and left Wayanad for the Left; he may still file for Amethi too.

N Mahadevan, Chennai

People's issues

These elections will be remembered for a gross mismatch between the people's agenda and the political parties' agendas. Food and livelihood issues are not in any party's campaign. Inflation and unemployment are worrying people, but get only lip service in manifestos and speeches. Civil society has a major role in bringing back the real issues to the centre stage. The voice of the people should not be lost in the din of election campaigns.

D V G Sankara Rao, Vizianagaram

Real Kerala

The crowdfunding of a massive Rs 34 crore by Keralites within the state and across the world to raise blood money for the release of a Keralite awaiting death sentence in Saudi Arabia is a noble example of love towards suffering fellow Malayalis. The state chief minister has rightly termed this fabulous gesture "the real Kerala story".

N A Joseph, Ettumanoor

Own misfortune

In Cuddalore, a fortune-teller who predicted win for a BJP ally was arrested by the police "for keeping a parrot in captivity". What an irony that the astrologer could not foresee his own future. Had he predicted the win of a DMK ally, perhaps his fate would have been different today. In politics, lip service plays a crucial role.

P G Menon, email

THE NEW SUNDAY EXPRESS
Chairman of the Board: **Manoj Kumar Sonthalia** Editor: **Santwana Bhattacharya**
Published by **R K Jhunjhunwala** on behalf of Express Publications (Madurai) Private Limited, at No. 1, Queen's Road, Bengaluru - 560 001 and printed by him at Express Press, Plot No. 2A, Bommasandra Industrial Area, 4th Phase, Survey No. 46, Part Yarandahalli Village, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk. Bengaluru - 560 099.
Bengaluru. Vol. 25, No. 15 RNI Reg. No. KARENG\2000\03040. Phone: 080-22866893. **Copyright:** Express Publications (Madurai) Private Limited. All rights reserved. Reproduction in any manner, electronic or otherwise, in whole or in part, without prior written permission is prohibited.

POSTS OF THE DAY

Subramanian Swamy @Swamy39
In the UT of Ladakh, the Modi govt gave free access to China to set up camps, and he says "koi aaya nahin...". Do the Chinese have some secret that make them walk into Ladakh at will?

Asaduddin Owaisi @asadowaisi
AIADMK has refused to ally with BJP and has committed to never allying with it in the future. It has also assured that it will oppose CAA, NPR & NRC.

Jairam Ramesh @Jairam_Ramesh
Why hasn't the BJP set up a single premier educational institute in TN? Why was the PM so eager to privatise Salem Steel Plant?

The choice — the repeat of 2014-24 or throwback to 1989-98?

S GURUMURTHY
Editor, Thuglak Tamil Magazine. Chairman, Vivekananda International Foundation Strategic Think Tank

PART - 2

THERE are four main issues in the ensuing elections. One, a government which will be stable for the next five years like the previous 10 years. Two, a leader who will not only survive in power but deliver development and national security like Modi did in the last 10 years. Three, an Indian leader who will provide global leadership and protect core national interests in the world like Modi did. The alternative to Modi is the INDI Alliance, which has turned fratricidal. It needs no political scientist to say that the INDI Alliance cannot imagine to provide a stable government. And its alternative to Modi is no one and certainly none better. The final issue before the people is whether the polls will repeat the Modi decade or throw the nation back to the decade long past, 1989-98. The country had lost the feel of a stable government and strong leader till Modi arrived on the scene 10 years ago. He demonstrated in his two terms what a stable government and strong leader can do to the country and contribute to the world.

Modi 1.0

In his first term, Modi had to take head on the disastrous outcome of the 10-year misrule by the government led by the Congress and revive the national economy. Each decision he had to take was painful. He boldly cancelled the 2G and coal licences granted by the previous government for blatantly corrupt reasons, auctioned those licences and raked in huge revenues to the treasury. His bold move to root out crony capitalism won the confidence of the investors within and outside. He had to take on the huge non-performing loans of the banks. Former Reserve Bank Governor Raghuram Rajan admitted that bad loans were caused by the reckless lending during the Congress regime. Stung by bad loans, banks could not lend, affecting all businesses. Modi recapitalised the banks, pulled them back from near bankruptcy and energised them to lend. Without waiting for them to begin lending, he devised the state guaranteed Mudra small loans to over 130 million tiny businesses, which saved and boosted the self-employed sector. In his first term, he overcame most of the deep-rooted economic problems created by the previous regime.

He took on terrorism by counter-terror measures unheard of in India. He ordered surgical strikes across borders and stunned a nuclear Pakistan with an open-ended policy of nuclear strike, unlike India. The world largely approved India's new cross-border counter-terror policy. Overcoming the psychological resistance of India against any proactive action against China—ever active on the border—Modi ordered the army to enter the Chinese side in Doklam and destroy installations that threatened Indian security in the North East. The move stunned China and won the admiration of the West in particular. He also put down Left-wing terrorism with an iron hand.

Modi, the Chanakya, entered into a shocking, strategic political alliance with Mehbooba Mufti, a soft separatist leader in Kashmir, using her lust for power and got the Centre to penetrate into the J&K administration, which was till then beyond its reach. Later, he pulled down her government and imposed Central rule, which paved the way for revocation of the special status of Kashmir in his second term. Modi also expanded the political footprint of the BJP and transformed it into a huge national force, including in the North East, which was a victim of insurgency and separatism for decades. He addressed the problems of the long neglected North East by his development-centric approach. He ordered his ministers to go to the North East and stay there overnight. Tens of ministers made over 250 visits. He himself went there dozens of times and brought about unthinkable development of the region. Result, the North East people became firmly integrated with the mainstream India and the BJP emerged as the dominant political force in the North East.

Had Modi not decided to buy Russian oil, global oil prices could have touched the roof and the world economy, already down with Covid, would have landed in irretrievable depression

Modi 2.0

Modi's second term was more challenging than the first with the global pandemic striking India hard. In the past, India would wait for the West to invent a vaccine, to import when they decided to export. Indians would suffer the deadly diseases till then. When Modi announced India would make its swadeshi vaccine, the world laughed and his domestic opponents mocked him. He refused to import the vaccine made by the West and waited for the domestic efforts to succeed. India succeeded in making not one but two swadeshi vaccines. He double-vaccinated 110 crore people more efficiently than the advanced US with one-fourth of our population. The Indian fatalities were far low at 5.3 lakh while the US tally was 12.2 million. Going by the US infection-fatality ratio, 45 crore Indians should have been infected against 4.5 crore, and 45 lakh would have died against 5.3 lakh! India supplied vaccines to needy nations at affordable prices, which won the admiration of the world. Result, while the leading economies of the US and China have still not recovered from the Covid impact, India recovered fast, emerging as the brightest spot and the fastest growing economy. As India emerged as a significant influencer in global affairs, its capacity to act strategically to protect its vital interests also rose.

When the Ukraine war broke out, Modi took the high risk policy of strategic neutrality, which was in effect pro-Russia. His strategic and risky decision to import Russian oil eroded the effect of US sanctions against Russia and annoyed the US. With his high stature and close relations with the leaders of France, Australia, Italy and Japan and also the Muslim powers in West Asia, he moderated and managed the angst of the US. Had Modi not decided to buy Russian oil, global oil prices could have touched the roof and the world economy, already down with Covid, would have landed in irretrievable depression. India's Ukraine stand inspired the rise of the middle powers, which started the erosion of the hegemonic powers. When the Ukraine issue was at its peak, Modi assumed the G20 leadership and transformed what was an elite club confined to five star hotels into a mass movement with over 250 people-to-people meetings all over India. This changed the complexion of G20 and made the next leader Brazil wondering whether it can repeat India's efforts!

As spectacular as his global level performance, or even more, are his achievements in the domestic front. He abrogated the special status provision under Article 370 in the Constitution, which had co-opted Pakistan as a claimant for Kashmir for 75 years and internationalised the issue. Modi snuffed out Pakistan from Kashmir by the stroke of Indian Parliament's pen with not a bullet fired. He turned Kashmir into a haven of peace and development with the tourist inflow last year touching 3.5 crore, the highest ever. He reduced Pakistan into a footnote in India-related issues. He boldly passed the Citizenship law amendment to give citizenship to Hindus, Sikhs, Christians, Buddhist, Jains and Jews persecuted in Islamic Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan – fulfilling the promise that Gandhi, Nehru, Patel had made, which even Marxists and Mammohan Singh wanted done but did not do.

Modi snuffed out Pakistan from Kashmir by the stroke of Indian Parliament's pen with not a bullet fired. He turned Kashmir into a haven of peace and development with heavy tourist inflow

He resolved the centuries-old Ram Janmabhoomi issue by democratic and judicial procedures and cleared the historic backlog that repeatedly set Hindu-Muslim relations on fire. He did it through a unanimous decision of the Supreme Court ordering the construction of the Ram Mandir. Muslims who were against the temple, too, welcomed it. Modi did the Pran Pratishtha of the temple, which virtually became a symbol of national integration symbolising the diversity of India. By this most comprehensive solution, he put a fullstop to the most fiery Hindu-Muslim issue dating back to the days of Aurangzeb. He has also begun implementing the common civil code, a 72-year-long pending mandate of the Constitution, urged by the Supreme Court several times — which no government had the guts to touch. The list is too long to be exhaustive.

Vision for 2047

Modi is the first and only Prime Minister to place before the people a long term vision for the nation and the world—that of a developed India by 2047. Modi's visions is not based on any wishful thinking. It is based on sound logic and calculations. By 2027, India will surpass Germany and Japan and become the world's third-largest economy. The Western world that engaged and promoted China at India's expense is decoupling from it rapidly. The US Congress has enacted a law to end all supply chain links with China in defence and security supplies, which will transform the current China Plus One policy into China Minus. This opens up huge possibilities for India to replace China in the global supply chain. On the other hand, if as is now expected, Ukraine wins the war, India will emerge as the only democratic nation that holds the US-West on the one hand and its foe Russia on the other. India will be the one nation that can help avoid a new Cold War in a world that would otherwise be as divided as in the 1950s and 1960s.

This is what Modi offers. What has the INDI Alliance got to offer?

Throwback to 1989-98?

The INDI Alliance whose sole aim is to defeat Modi whom it had named as its adversary, started off in the wake of Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Yatra and in the euphoria of the stunning victory of the Congress in Karnataka in May last. It virtually petered out after the Congress tasted a massive defeat in the three northern state elections in December last. Nitish Kumar, who first forged the INDI Alliance, got disgusted and joined the adversary Modi. Mamata Banerjee threw the Congress out in Bengal. Communists fight the Congress everywhere, including in Kerala. Congress threw the Communists out in Telangana. No seer is needed to say that the INDI Alliance is less likely to be a repeat of the 2004-14 UPA rule and more likely to be a recall of 1989-98.

The choice before the people is clear: To repeat Modi who promises to make India the third world's largest economy and make the country developed by 2047 or to get thrown back to the long forgotten decade of half-a-dozen prime ministers and four elections, which alone the INDI Alliance can promise.

PAYAL KAPADIA

CANNES CALLING & THE FEELING OF COLLECTIVE HOPE

SHREYAS PANDE

Mandar Pardikar

PAYAL Kapadia's *All We Imagine As Light* became the first Indian film in the last 30 years to enter the competition at the Cannes Film Festival

Chetan Anand's *Neecha Nagar* took India to Cannes all the way back in 1946 for the first time. It told a story of a group of villagers protesting against a landlord and won the Grand Prix award (which later became Palme d'Or) at the festival. To date, no other Indian film has won this prize. The last time an Indian film got nominated to compete for the Palme d'Or was in 1994 when Shaji Karun's Malayalam feature, *Swaham*, entered the competition, and lost to Quentin Tarantino's gangster drama, *Pulp Fiction*. And now, 30 years later, Payal Kapadia has taken us to the prestigious competition at the festival, with her film, *All We Imagine As light*. Fascinatingly, and perhaps unsurprisingly for her abilities, this is not her first time at the Cannes.

Born in Mumbai, Kapadia shifted to Andhra Pradesh to do her schooling in Rishi Valley School. She did her bachelor's in economics from St. Xavier's College, Mumbai, and followed that up with a master's degree. Later, she went to the Film and Television Institute of India to study film direction. Even during her time at the institute in 2017, her short film, *Afternoon Clouds*, secured a premiere at the Cannes festival. Three years later, in 2021, Kapadia's personal-meets-political fable, *A Night of Knowing Nothing*, won the L'Oeil d'or for Best Documentary Film at the 74th edition.

NEWSMAKER

That film begins with a student, "L", at FTII reading some letters she wrote for her estranged partner. Her caste identity becomes a reason for their separation as his parents disapprove of their relationship. The film features scenes from the college campus and visuals from student protests in the universities across the country. Kapadia had seen this world closely enough to become its living document. The film's dreamy merging of fact and fiction was unusual, and captured the spark of an emerging uneasiness felt by the youth with intimate layering accomplished through the philosophical observations in the voiceover of L. In a way, that film carried the same spirit as Neecha Nagar in its rebellious zeal to fight injustice. Decades apart, both films are Brecht's voices singing in dark times about dark times.

This feeling of collective hope is further evoked in the name of her new film, *All We Imagine As Light*, which tells the story of two nurses from Kerala, employed at a Mumbai nursing home. One of them, Anu, is on a quest to find a place to get intimate with her boyfriend. Her roommate, Prabha, gets a shock when she receives a gift from her estranged husband. Even this story, although a work of fiction this time, has emerged from Kapadia's personal life. She lived with her grandmother all her life and when she needed full time care, nurses would stay with them. It was through her conversations with the nurses that she was able to make sense of the inner loneliness pervading their lives. She then pitched the film for Cannes festival's Cinefondation Résidence, a programme designed specifically for young filmmakers around the world. She wrote this Indo-French production film at the residency, working from an apartment in Paris.

All We Imagine As Light will compete against veteran director Francis Ford Coppola's science fiction drama *Megalopolis*, Greek filmmaker Yorgos Lanthimos' *Kinds of Kindness* and Paul Scrader's *Oh, Canada*. The presence of these giant filmmakers and their enduring cinema stands testament to the glory of this achievement, as Payal's film joins other Palme d'Or nominees from India, like Satyajit Ray's *Parash Pathar* (1958) and MS Sathyu's *Garm Hava* (1974).

'Modi Ki Guarantee', Viksit Bharat to figure in BJP 'Sankalp Patra'

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @New Delhi

THE BJP is likely to release its manifesto for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections on Sunday on the birth anniversary of BR Ambedkar, party sources said. The BJP is learnt to have prepared a comprehensive document incorporating people's suggestions as well as the PM's vision for a developed nation, titled as 'Modi Ki Guarantee'.

The BJP will take the manifesto, called 'Sankalp Patra', to households across the country on a mission mode. Sources on Saturday hinted that the manifesto will reflect resolves of party towards realisation of PM Modi's vision of 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047. It is likely that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other senior leaders may release the manifesto. "If the manifesto is not released on Sunday, certainly the party will release it on April 16," said a senior BJP leader.

A source said the Modi Ki Guarantees contained in the manifesto will be a household document for Viksit Bharat by 2047. "We will take our Sankalp Patra to every households across the country during the elections narrating the people as how Modi Ki Guarantees are structured to be fulfilled for a developed nation with their participations," the source said. "The motto is less government and maximum governance,' he said. BJP workers through a nationwide move will distribute the Sankalp Patra among people, especially youth, women, farmers and the poor in their local dialects.

"Schemes like Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojna and other schemes in the pipeline will be highlighted. Time frame will be fixed for implementing the schemes for empowerment of women and promotion of entrepreneurship and employments amongst the youth. There may also be resolves for ameliorating economic conditions of poor people and farmers through a slew of welfare schemes," a party leader said.

"The works done in the railway in the last 10 years including launch of Vande Bharat train and other developmental works are also expected to figure prominently in the manifesto," said a BJP functionary.

Iranian commandos raiding the ship near the Strait of Hormuz on Saturday | AP

Iran seizes Israel-linked ship with 17 Indians aboard

YESHI SELI @New Delhi

A day after India issued an advisory asking its citizens not to travel to Iran and Israel in view of heightened tensions in West Asia, Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps on Saturday seized a Portugal-flagged cargo ship near the Gulf of Oman near Strait of Hormuz with 17 Indians on board.

A video of the capture showed two soldiers sliding down from a helicopter through ropes on the deck of the ship in the Gulf of Oman.

"We are aware that a cargo ship 'MSC Aries' (Mediterranean Shipping Company) has been taken control by Iran. We are in touch with Iranian authorities through diplomatic channels, both in Tehran and Delhi, to ensure the safety, welfare and early released of Indian nationals," an official said.

Sources said Iran's military seized the ship carrying a total of 25 crew members as it was suspected to have an Israeli connection. The vessel is associated with London-based Zodiac Maritime, owned by Israeli billionaire Eyal Ofer.

Iran generally doesn't target cargo vessels though they have targeted oil tankers in the past. On Saturday, the forces were on the look out for ships linked to Israel travelling through the Strait of Hormuz, which led to this seizure. The MSC is one of the world's biggest cargo shipping lines.

The seizure follows Iran's threats to respond to a suspected Israeli air strike on April 1 on Iran's consular building in Damascus, Syria, which killed seven personnel, including two senior commanders.

Iran's retaliation against Israel, US will be 'controlled', say experts

BALA CHAUHAN @ Bengaluru

WILL Iran escalate the regional tension in the West Asia after it warned of retaliation against Israel over an attack on its embassy in Damascus on April 1, which killed Brigadier General Mohammad Reza Zahedi, and other Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) commanders? While there is a real risk that Iranian-backed proxies may intensify their attacks on US forces and Israel with US President Joe Biden promising "ironclad" support to Israel, former Indian ambassador to Iran Manbir Singh said that the Iranian retaliation against Israel may be "measured".

"The Iranian retaliation to Israel and the US will be controlled because of the counter repercussions from the two countries and the damage to oil supplies worldwide. Unless it (Iranian) is a very moderate attack of the face saving kind, there will be a massive response from Israel and the US," said Singh. He added that no country wants or can afford any further escalation of tensions in the Middle East with the over six-month long Israel-Palestine war.

"Even the oil fields of the Sunni Arab kingdom may be hit by Iran if it were to take on a massive offensive, accusing them of being pro US. Barring Qatar, Teheran has traditionally blamed the Arab countries of being pro-American and not upholding the Islamic causes," said the former diplomat.

File picture of Israeli strike on the Iranian embassy in Damascus

Former ambassador to Saudi Arabia, Oman, and the UAE, Talmiz Ahmad said Iran will not "initiate a massive offensive against Israel and the US. It has never shown any interest in a conventional war despite being provoked on several occasions and being under sanctions for more than 40 years. Teheran is not in a position to take on a full fledged war," said Ahmad. Iran has largely used proxies to attack Israel, while the latter has avoided direct airstrikes on Teheran. With the attack in Syria, Tel Aviv is also bracing for a retaliatory attack by its arch rival provoking fears of a regional conflict.

The US and its European allies are concerned that the attack in Damascus could push Iran to an open war with Israel. This development has heightened concerns about a potential escalation in the already volatile region, with India, France, and Russia issuing travel advisories to their citizens to the region.

On Saturday, the IRGC seized a container ship near the Strait of Hormuz amid rising tensions in the Middle East. The crew includes 17 Indians.

'Teheran not in position to take on full-fledged war'

Former ambassador to Saudi Arabia, Oman, and the UAE, Talmiz Ahmad said Iran will not "initiate a massive offensive against Israel and the US. It has never shown any interest in a conventional war despite being provoked on several occasions and being under sanctions for more than 40 years. Teheran is not in a position to take on a full fledged war," said Ahmad.

INDIA	Max	Min		Max	Min
Ahmedabad	37	24	Mumbai	35	26
Bhopal	34	22	Panaji	32	26
Jaipur	36	23	Patna	38	25
Amritsar	34	17	Lucknow	37	19
Chennai	36	27	Port Blair	32	26
Kolkata	35	26	Imphal	31	19
Srinagar	23	08	Chandigarh	35	18

Jayant in, yet Jats play hardball to BJP

The financially influential community holds considerable significance in a dozen constituencies in westren Uttar Pradesh

NAMITA BAJPAI @Lucknow

TWO days before voting in the 2022 assembly elections in western UP, Union home minister Amit Shah made an unprecedented move. Along with hundreds of BJP workers, he went door-to-door seeking support from voters, especially Jats, for party candidates.

This happened immediately after the BJP's failed discussions for a pre-poll alliance with the Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD) led by Jayant Chaudhary, a significant Jat leader and the grandson of former PM Chaudhary Charan Singh. Jayant opted to stay aligned with the SP and famously declared, "Main koi chavanni nahin jo palat jaoon" (I am not a coin that flips). Cut to February 2024.

Two months before the Lok Sabha elections, Prime Minister Narendra Modi conferred Bharat Ratna on Charan Singh. And Jayant reacted to this saying: "Dil Jeet Liya" (won hearts). Thus the RLD chief was won over. Solving the Jat puzzle was a major strategic win for the BJP, as it facilitated their entry into the political landscape of UP's Wild West in the lead-up to the election.

Jats form just 2% of UP's electorate. Nonetheless, political analysts say the influence of Jats stems from their concentration in a dozen districts of western UP, where they make up 20-25% of the voting population.

The influence of the Jat factor is palpable as the BJP, which continues to reign supreme in the state since 2014, has now joined hands with the RLD, the party that is perceived to advocate for the Jat community.

The Jats are primarily farmers and wield significant economic influence in the region. The extent of Jat influence on votes is evident from the 2009 polls, where the BJP secured only three seats in western UP while RLD (then a minor partner of NDA), won five seats due to support from Jats.

On the other hand, experts note that in the 2014 polls, held in the aftermath of the 2013 Muzaffarnagar riots, Jats were polarised in favour of the BJP, resulting in a sweeping victory for the saffron party in the region. This trend continued in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls.

However, alarm bells rang for the BJP in the 2022 Assembly polls when Jats were divided between their loyalty to Jayant, who was an ally of the SP, and the BJP. And the community drifted away from the BJP over the Centre's controversial farm laws. Although the three farm laws were withdrawn before the polls, the damage was already done.

The BJP's loss translated into RLD's victory. It resulted in a jump in RLD's vote share, with the number of seats going up from one in 2017 to eight in 2022. It was no wonder that the BJP brass went on an overdrive to lure Jayant, despite opposition from party's Jat leaders.

"The thinking was that with RLD by our side, whatever discontent among farmers is remaining would go away, and Jats will have no dilemma over which camp to support," said a senior BJP leader. "Jats wield a lot of influence in society because of their dominant social status. Their firepower is beyond their own community," he said.

Economic influence

The Jats are primarily farmers and wield significant economic influence in the region. The extent of Jat influence on votes is evident from the 2009 polls, where the BJP secured only three seats in western UP while RLD (then a minor partner of NDA), won five seats due to support from Jats. However, experts note that in 2014 polls, held in aftermath of the 2013 Muzaffarnagar riots, Jats were polarised in favour of the BJP, resulting in its sweeping victory

THE 'J' FACTOR

The community's influence and importance is palpable as BJP has joined hands with RLD – a party that is perceived to advocate for the Jats

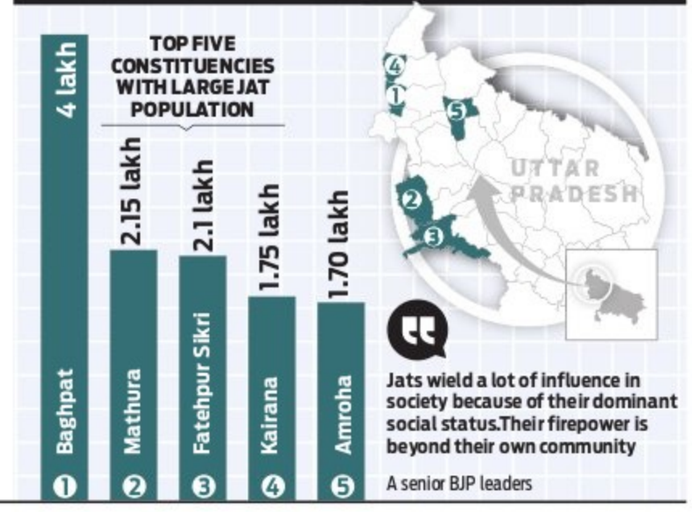
Jats comprise around **2%** of UP's population

Around a dozen LS constituencies of west UP have up to **20-25%** of Jat population

Their strong social status influences other caste groups

They are farmers, majority being cane growers

THEY ARE IN GOOD NUMBERS IN BAGHPAT, MATHURA, FATEHPUR SIKRI, MUZAFFARNAGAR, ALIGARH, KAIRANA, AMROHA, BIJNOR, HATHRAS



MAHARASHTRA

No more confined to state, Maha Cong rift reaches Delhi

Rahul in Bhandara

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Saturday said loans of farmers will be waived if his party comes to power at the Centre. Addressing a rally in Sakoli in Maharashtra's Bhandara district, he said the main issues plaguing the people of the country were unemployment and inflation, though these were ignored by the media, which concentrated on programmes of the prime minister and celebrities. Gandhi said his party would conduct a caste census after getting power since it is important for country's future.

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @Mumbai

THE dissatisfaction prevailing among local Congress leaders over the party's seat-sharing agreement with MVA allies has reportedly reached the top leadership of the party in Delhi. The local leaders have urged the leadership to intervene else it will have repercussions in the Lok Sabha elections.

In the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) alliance , Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena has got the highest 21 parliamentary seats, while the Congress has 17 and the Sharad Pawar-led NCP (SP) 10.

"Local leaders believe that they have been given short shrift in the seat-sharing. The deal has enabled the Shiv Sena (UBT) to bag the highest price despite a split in the party," said a Congress leader.

"The locals blame the state leadership who failed to negotiate fairly with the alliance partners and did not take the top leadership in the loop. We not only got fewer seats, but most of the seats given to us are tough to crack. In comparison, alliance partners took easy seats," said the Congress leader.

Party sources said Mumbai Congress chief and party MLA Varsha Gaikwad rushed to Delhi along with other senior party leaders to convey the feelings of party leaders over the sharing deal.

Varsha Gaikwad was keen to contest the Mumbai South central seat because it was earlier represented by her father late Eknath Gaikwad and claimed fair chances to win the elections.

But Uddhav Thackeray fielded his close aide Anil Desai.

On the other hand, after announcing Dr Shobha Bacchav's candidature from the Dhule Lok Sabha seat, the Nasik and Dhule district Congress chiefs resigned in protest and demanded cancelling the candidature of Dr Bacchav, calling her an outsider.

A senior party leader said that in Maharashtra, the Congress is a divided house and that there was no coordination among the state leaders.

BIHAR

Tejashwi's 'parivartan patra' promises 5 new airports, jobs

2 quit RJD, join JD(U)

Lalu Prasad's RJD received a major setback after its two senior leaders, including former MP Ahmad Ashafaq Karim, resigned from primary membership, accusing top leadership of doing injustice to Muslims in distribution of tickets for ensuing Lok Sabha polls. Ashafaq, a former member of Rajya Sabha, was expecting ticket for Lok Sabha election from Katihar. However, the seat went to Congress under seat-sharing formula among constituents of Opposition grand alliance in the state.

RAMASHANKAR @Patna

TOEING the line of Delhi Chief Minister and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Arvind Kejriwal, the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD), which is a part of the Opposition 'INDIA' bloc, promised in its election manifesto on Saturday to provide 200 units of electricity free of cost to the poor and farmers of Bihar.

They stated that a separate commission would be established to investigate the increasing rates of electricity. Releasing the party's election manifesto for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, former Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Prasad Yadav also announced plans to provide one crore jobs and ₹1 lakh to economically weak women every year on the occasion of 'Rakshabandhan'.

The former Deputy Chief Minister also declared that five airports would be made operational at Muzaffarpur, Raxaul (East Champaran), Purnea, Gopalganj, and Bhagalpur to enhance connectivity. These airports are essential for the state's economic advancement, tourism, and youth facilities. Additionally, the RJD leader promised to abolish the 'Agniveer' scheme launched by the Narendra Modi government at the centre. The manifesto, called 'Parivartan Patra,' pledged to accord special status to Bihar and offer special packages for all-round development.

The election manifesto outlined 24 promises with a focus on generating employment and enhancing the economic independence of the poor. The party also pledged to provide a cooking gas cylinder for ₹500 and reintroduce the old pension scheme. The manifesto promised to implement the remaining propoals of the Mandal Commission.

For the benefit of peasants, the party plans to engage in discussions with farmers to devise agricultural policies. Tejashwi said, "If our government comes to power, the process of providing jobs will begin from August 15."

ELECTION2024

2 FIRs against Bastar nominee

Police have registered two cases against senior Congress leader and the party's Bastar seat candidate Kawasi Lakhma in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district for allegedly violating the model code of conduct through his alleged objectionable remarks, officials said. While an FIR was registered against him for making an objectionable remark against PM Narendra Modi, another case was registered for his alleged statement against police.

Modi to address rally in Pipariya

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address a rally at Pipariya town in Madhya Pradesh's Narmadapuram district on April 14, the birth anniversary of B R Ambedkar Narmadapuram, formerly known as Hoshangabad, is part of the Hoshangabad Lok Sabha constituency. Modi will address a gathering at around 11.45 AM in Pipariya town, the state BJP said. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address a rally at Pipariya town in Madhya Pradesh's Narmadapuram district on April 14, the birth anniversary of B R Ambedkar.

12 firms deployed on election duty

The Himachal Pradesh police have deployed 12 companies in other states for duties related to Lok Sabha Elections-2024 , as per the orders of the Election Commission of India, according to an official statement. Eight companies led by Superintendent of Police (SP) Arvind Chaudhary have been deployed in Rajasthan and four companies led by SP Khushal Chand Sharma in Uttarakhand, the statement issued here on Saturday said.

7 CANDIDATES

In a 1st, SAD will contest Amritsar, Gurdaspur seats

HARPREET BAJWA @Chandigarh

THE Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) released the first list of seven candidates for the upcoming Lok Sabha election on Saturday. For the first time in more than two decades, the party will be contesting the Amritsar and Gurdaspur Lok Sabha seats. In this list, party stalwarts Daljit Singh Cheema and Prem Singh Chandumajra have been given tickets.

Surprisingly, the name of former union minister and Bathinda MP Harsimrat Kaur Badal, wife of party president Sukhbir Singh Badal, is missing so far. She could either be fielded from her existing constituency Bathinda or Ferozepur.

Interestingly, two Hindu leaders of the party have been given tickets by the panthic party. Former BJP Minister Anil Joshi has been fielded from Amritsar, thus creating trouble for BJP candidate Taranjit Singh Sandhu, a former Indian Ambassador to the United States. The Shiromani Akali Dal has given a ticket to its senior leader Daljit Singh Cheema from Gurdaspur, as Cheema's native village falls in this district, and he has studied here. Besides, the first ten years of his political career were active here. Cheema was eyeing a ticket from Anandpur Sahib, as he had remained an MLA from there and an education minister in the SAD-BJP Government.

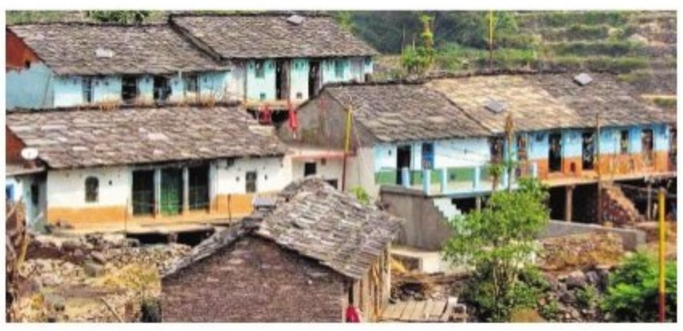
The party will be, for the first time in many decades, fighting polls on this seat, as in previous elections, it had an alliance with BJP. Thus, this seat fell in the share of the saffron party as per the seat-sharing arrangement with SAD.

The party has nominated NK Sharma, a two-time former Dera Bassi MLA and realtor, to contest from Patiala. One advantage in his favour is the absence of opposition within Patiala. The party leadership is united in supporting him, and former minister Surjit Singh Rakhra has endorsed Sharma's candidacy.

1ST SINCE 1947

No polling booth in 24 U'khand 'ghost villages'

NARENDRA SETHI @Dehradun



DESERTED LANDS	
District	Villages
Tehri Garhwal	9
Champawat	5
Pauri Garhwal	3
Pithoragarh	3
Almora	2
Chamoli	2

DESPITE the Election Commission of India's diligent efforts to enhance voter participation in the Lok Sabha elections, for the first time since independence, 24 villages in Uttarakhand will not have a single polling booth on April 19, the election-day. Referred to as "deserted villages" in official terms, these are known to locals as "ghost villages".

As per the data provided by the State Election Commission, the 24 villages which have been active participants in the past 16 Lok Sabha elections since independence, will not be able to exercise their franchise this time around.

The surprising factor leading to their exclusion from the electoral process is the recent designation of these villages as "uninhabited villages", as reported by the State Migration Commission.

According to the commission's findings, "These villages are now deemed uninhabited, located in the districts of Almora, Tehri, Champawat, Pauri Garhwal, Pithoragarh, and Chamoli.

The second report released in February 2023 brought forth a significant trend of temporary migration from 6,436 gram panchayats in the state between 2018 and 2022."

The report explicitly states that "Over three lakh individuals departed their villages in pursuit of employment. Nevertheless, these individuals sporadically returned. Concurrently, permanent migration occurred in 2067 gram panchayats within the state. Residents departed their villages in quest of employment, education, healthcare, and did not return."

The migration commission's study, as referenced in the report, revealed that numerous individuals sold their ancestral lands, leaving many plots barren. Notably, a staggering 80 gram panchayats in the Almora district were abandoned due to permanent migration. A significant finding highlighted in the commission's report is that between 2018 and 2022, as many as 24 villages in the state became entirely "uninhabited".

In this scenario, the deserted villages will not witness the vibrancy of the general elections this time. Since no polling booth will be established in the areas, hence there is no rationale for candidates to campaign there.

Speaking to this newspaper, Uttarakhand's Chief Electoral Officer, BVRC Purushottam pointed out, "While this issue is linked to migration, the Election Commission has established polling booths even in extremely remote regions of the state inhabited by as less as 50 voters. The Commission's aim is to facilitate inclusive voting in hard-to-reach areas."

As per the information gathered, "Between 2018 and 2022, a total of 28,531 individuals residing in 2,067 gram panchayats in the state underwent permanent migration, relocating to district headquarters or other districts. The highest proportion, at 35.47 per cent, opted for nearby towns. 23.61 per cent of individuals moved to other districts while 21.08 per cent went beyond state boundaries.

11
shot dead by militants in Pakistan's Balochistan in two separate incidents

GLOBAL WEATHER

LR: Light Rain • HR: Heavy Rain • TDS: Thundershower • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

Beijing	19	12	LR	Los Angeles	16	8	LC
Colombo	33	25	TDS	Melbourne	21	12	LR
Dhaka	36	27	TDS	Moscow	16	6	HR
Dubai	31	22	SNY	New York	22	14	SNY
Houston	28	11	TDS	Singapore	31	27	TDS
Istanbul	23	12	LC	Toronto	13	6	LC
London	14	7	LC	Washington	26	17	LC

US moves more troops to West Asia amid fears of Iran strike

Israel warns Iran against escalating the situation; European countries shut embassies in Tehran and other Persian Gulf cities; airlines avoid Iranian airspace

WASHINGTON/JERUSALEM

TROOP reinforcements from Israel's principal ally the United States headed to the region on Saturday, with fears of wider war growing more than six months into Israel's battle against Hamas militants in the Gaza Strip.

After pulling forces from the southern Gaza city of Khan Yunis one week ago, Israel's military said Saturday it was continuing to operate against militants in central Gaza.

In central Gaza's main city of Deir al-Balah, fire burned in the rubble of a mosque that was destroyed.

Israel's military "demanded that the whole area be evacuated" before it was "wiped out in minutes", said Abdullah Baraka, a witness. The military said it had struck more than 30 militant targets across the Palestinian territory over the previous day.

Airlines said they are avoiding Iranian airspace, nearly two weeks after a strike, which Iran blamed on its arch foe Israel, destroyed Tehran's consular annex at its embassy in Damascus, Syria.

Violence involving Iran-backed groups around West Asia, including in Lebanon, Yemen and Syria, has increased since Israeli forces began their retaliation against Hamas militants in Gaza for their October 7 attack on Israel that killed over 1,400 Israelis.

Tensions have also flared in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, where settler attacks left at least one Palestinian dead and dozens injured, and a search continued for a missing Israeli teenager, sources from both sides said.

Palestinians injured during Israeli bombardment arrive at al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital in Deir el-Balah on Saturday | AP

As talks for a Gaza ceasefire and hostage release dragged on, the region braced for the retaliation which Iran has vowed after the consular strike whose victims included two generals.

"We are moving additional assets to the region to bolster regional deterrence efforts and increase force protection for US forces," said a US defence official in Washington.

The United States already has tens of thousands of troops in West Asia and provides several billions of dollars worth of military assistance to Israel.

After Iran's retaliation threats, Israel said it was strengthening air defences and paused leave for combat units.US President Joe Biden sent the head of US Central Command, General Michael Kurilla, to Israel for talks.

After meeting Kurilla on Friday, Defence Minister Yoav Gallant said Israel and the United States stood "shoulder to shoulder", despite differences over the conduct of the Gaza war. "Our enemies think that they can pull apart Israel and the United States, but the opposite is true—they are bringing us together and strengthening our ties," Gallant said. After calls with his Australian, British and German counterparts Thursday, Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian said: "Iran does not seek to expand the scope of the war."

After calls with his Australian, British and German counterparts Thursday, Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian said: "Iran does not seek to expand the scope of the war." But he said it had no choice but to respond to the attack on its diplomatic mission.

There are a number of ways Iran could retaliate, and not all pose the same risk of escalation, experts said. "What is certain is that Tehran does not want a direct war with Israel, at least at the current stage," said Eva Koulouriotis, an independent Middle East analyst.

On Saturday, the Dutch foreign ministry said its embassy in Tehran and consulate in Arbil, Iraq, would remain closed on Sunday "in connection with the rising tensions between Iran and Israel".

Citing similar reasons, Germany reiterated a warning against travel to Iran.

France earlier warned its nationals against travelling to the region, after the US embassy in Israel announced it was restricting the movements of its diplomats over security fears. German airline Lufthansa said its planes would no longer use Iranian airspace, and extended a suspension of flights to and from Tehran.

WAR WATCH

ISRAEL-GAZA: DAY 190

TOLL SO FAR

34,106*

- The health ministry in Hamas-run Gaza said Saturday that at least 33,686 people have been killed in the territory during more than six months of war

* Combined toll in Gaza and West Bank

Heavy bombing in Gaza City

Residents of in central Gaza City reported heavy Israeli fire on Friday. Israel's military said its aircraft struck more than 60 militant targets in Gaza over the previous day

West Bank tense as missing Israeli teen found 'murdered'

JERUSALEM

A missing Israeli teenager was found dead in the occupied West Bank on Saturday, in what Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called a "heinous murder".

The disappearance of 14-year-old Benjamin Achimeir on Friday sparked a huge manhunt and attacks on Palestinian villages.

"The heinous murder of the boy... is a serious crime," Netanyahu said Saturday in a statement.

Israeli forces "are in an intensive pursuit after the heinous murderers and all those who collaborated with them," he said.Achimeir went missing early on Friday from the Malachi Hashalom outpost near the city of Ramallah.

His body was found nearby, the Israeli army and security forces said.

Hundreds of thousands of Israelis live in West Bank settlements considered illegal under international law.

The incident comes with tensions already high due to the Israel-Hamas war in Gaza.Following Achimeir's disappearance, Israeli security forces and hundreds of volunteers formed a search party.

On Friday afternoon Jewish settlers who were part of the manhunt raided the village of Al-Mughayyir near Malachi Hashalom, according to an AFP reporter.

At least one person was killed and 25 wounded, the Palestinian health ministry said on Friday.

Overnight, the official Palestinian news agency reported that five Palestinians were injured in another settler attack in the Abu Falah village near Ramallah.

Israel's Defence Minister Yoav Gallant warned against revenge attacks. *AFP*

6 stabbed to death in Aus shopping centre

SYDNEY

SIX people were killed and several others injured—including a nine-month-old baby—when a knife-wielding attacker rampaged through a busy Sydney shopping centre on Saturday.

Australian police said multiple people were stabbed by the unidentified assailant, who was tracked down and shot dead by a policewoman who is being hailed as a national hero.

The incident occurred at the sprawling Westfield Bondi Junction mall complex, which was packed with thousands of Saturday afternoon shoppers.

New South Wales police commissioner Karen Webb said five women and one man had died. A baby was undergoing emergency surgery.

Police said the attacker is believed to be a 40-year-old man who was known to law enforcement, but he has not yet been formally identified.

Webb played down suggestions that the attack could have been an act of terrorism and said it is believed the attacker acted alone. "If it is in fact the person we believe it is, then... it's not a terrorism incident," she said.

A New South Wales Ambulance spokesperson told AFP that eight patients were taken to various hospitals across Sydney, including the baby who was taken to the city's Children's Hospital.

"They all have traumatic injuries," the official said.

Security camera footage showed a man wearing an Australian rugby league jersey running around the shopping centre with a large knife.

Injured people lay lifeless on the floor, or surrounded by pools of blood.

Eyewitnesses described a scene of panic, with shoppers scrambling to safety and police trying to secure the area.

Many people took shelter in shops, trying to protect themselves, their families and frightened strangers.

Ayush Singh was working at a cafe inside the centre when the incident occurred. *AFP*

A woman cries as she comes out of the Westfield Bondi Junction mall in Sydney | AFP

ASIA MATTERS

SINGAPORE

RARE WATER SUPPLY CUT CAUSES PANIC

Residents of the Bukit Panchang area of Singapore faced hours-long water supply disruption without any notice, a rare incident in the city-state. "I turned the tap only to find there was totally no water, and it was the same for all other taps in my house," a resident told Straits Times. The city authorities are investigating the incident, the report said. "I've instructed the team to thoroughly check and prevent such occurrences," an official said. The last time the city-state reported a similar incident was in March 2023. That was caused by an electrical fault

GOVT'S FOCUS ON PROMOTING E.V. USE

Electric vehicles (EVs) will remain a policy focus in Malaysia's automaker sector, Xinhua reported. As per MIDF Research, the Malaysian government will continue to favour electrification of the auto sector with a target to achieve 38% xEV penetration by 2040, the report said. The xEV sales jumped 68% last year

THAILAND

GOVT PREPARED TO WELCOME 100K REFUGEES

Thailand said it is prepared to accept 1,00,000 refugees fleeing the conflict fighting in Myanmar, Bangkok Post reported. "If the number of people fleeing the conflict exceeds 1,00,000, agencies concerned have assured us that they can still manage the situation," foreign minister plans Parnpree Bahiddha-Nukara said. During a visit to the Myanmar border, he warned his country would not tolerate any violation of its sovereignty. "Our soldiers are guarding along the border, showing we are ready to protect, and not let anyone violate our sovereignty," he said

Kyiv starts building two US-designed nuclear reactors amid Russian attacks

NETISHYN

UKRAINE has started constructing two US-designed reactors at a nuclear power plant in the west of the country following devastating Russian attacks on its energy network.

Workers at Khmelnytskyi nuclear power station on Thursday poured a symbolic cubic metre of concrete for the reactors, which will use US technology and fuel, as Ukrainian and US flags fluttered.

The project is aimed at increasing Ukraine's energy security and reducing its dependence on Russian nuclear technology. Guests at the ceremony included the head of Ukraine's state nuclear operator, Energoatom, Petro Kotin; Ukrainian Energy Minister German Galushchenko and US Ambassador to Ukraine Bridget Brink.

Construction of power units 5, 6 in Ukrainian city of Khmelnytsky

Energoatom asked for the launch to be reported Saturday due to security concerns over Russian attacks. The ceremony took place hours after a Russian strike destroyed a power plant outside Kyiv. "This is our answer to the terrorists, this is our answer to the invaders," Galushchenko said. "Today we are talking about the future, we are talking about stability, we are talking about the development of nuclear energy," he said. *AP*

40 STILL STRANDED 19 HRS AFTER CABLE CAR ACCIDENT IN TURKIYE TOWN

ISTANBUL

MORE than 40 people remained stranded in cable cars high above a mountain in southern Turkiye on Saturday, 19 hours after one pod hit a pole and burst open, killing one person and injuring seven.

The accident occurred around 5.30 pm on Friday at the Tunektepe cable car just outside the Mediterranean city of Antalya during the busy Eid al-Fitr holiday. Operations to rescue the stranded people continued throughout the night.

"128 citizens in 16 pods have been rescued under difficult conditions," Okay Memis, director of the Turkish search and rescue agency AFAD, told media Saturday morning. "The rescue of 43 others in eight remaining pods is ongoing." He added that rescuers hope to complete rescue operations before dark. The casualties occurred when a pod hit a pole and burst open, sending its passengers plummeting to the mountainside below, officials said. State-run Anadolu Agency identified the deceased as a 54-year-old Turkish man. The injured were six Turkish citizens and one Kyrgyz national, including two children. They were rescued by Coast Guard.

Images in Turkish media showed the battered car swaying from dislodged cables on the side of the rocky mountain as medics tended the wounded. A total of 543 first responders and seven helicopters are involved in the rescue operations, including teams from AFAD, the Coast Guard, firefighting teams and mountaineering teams from different parts of Turkiye, officials said.

Friday was the final day of a three-day public holiday in Turkiye marking the end of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, which sees families flock to coastal resorts. *AP*

EXPRESS READ

North Korea, China hold high-level talks

Beijing: A top ranking Chinese official reaffirmed ties with North Korea during a meeting on Saturday with the country's leader Kim Jong Un in the capital Pyongyang, in the highest-level talks between the allies in years. The visit by Zhao Leji came as North Korea has test fired missiles to intimidate South Korea

LOST OF CERTIFICATE

I **Samuel Sanjeev Vishu,** have lost my original 10th ICSE Marks card and Pass certificate in transit. Index No. T/4196/085, Year of passing 2008, Name of school, Clarence High School, Richards Town Bangalore. if anyone finds the said documents then please contact **9008018209.**

LOSS OF ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

I, **AYUB AHMED,** Grandson of late Mohammed Ibrahim, Mobile No.9916448091, R/a No.525, 4th Main, 1st Stage, 2nd Block, HBR Layout, Banglore-43, have lost/misplaced the Original Sale Deed dated 07/08/1961, Registered as No.2256/61-62, in respect of Property bearing Old No.26, then changed to 73 and now bearing No.76, situated in Chintala Venkatappa Galli, Lalbagh Fort Road, Dodda Mavalli, Bangalore. A police report has been filed on 22/02/2024 vide Lost Report No.0944547/2024, with the Bangalore City Police. If any person in possession of the same, may return the same to me. Will be suitably rewarded.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Shri. Suresh Kumar Punamiya, Previously known as Suresh Kumar Jain, aged about 57 years S/o Shri. Achaldasji Jain, R/a. Flat No. 501, 5th Floor, 87 Mahavir Building, Mughbhat Lane, Mumbai – 400 004 had appointed Sri. Ravi Sanchethi, Aged about 55 years, Residing at No.16, 2nd Floor, Above Kanthi Sweets, Kothanuru Dinne Main Road, J P Nagar 7th Phase, Bangalore – 560 078, as a General Power of Attorney for an Immoveable Property bearing House List No. 24, V.P. Khatha No. 13 formed in Sy No. 23 of Gubbalalu Village, Uttarahalli, Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, dated 29.08.2019 which was duly notarized before the Advocate and Notary Public Sri. Hemanth Jangam, Reg. No 4762 in Mumbai, Maharashtra and due to some unfruitful circumstances the GPA has been cancelled and the Power given under the GPA stood cancelled. Hence it is intimated to the general public not to engage in any acts with the power of attorney holder with respect to the schedule property as the same has been cancelled.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of Property bearing V.P. Khatha No.13, formed in Sy No. 23 of Gubbalalu Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, measuring East to West 40 Ft and North to South 60 Ft and bounded as follows:-

East by : Site No.23
West by : Site No.25
North by : Site No.17
South by : Road

PRACHI P. JAIN LL.M.
ADVOCATE HIGH COURT
Office: 30/E, 'B' Wing, 2nd Floor, Pushpam Building, Cawasji Patel Street, Opp Yazdani Bakery, Fort, Mumbai - 400 001 Ph: 98701 52834

PUBLIC NOTICE

My Clients have negotiated to purchase the schedule property from MRS. SHEELA PANGAONKAR, W/o. Mr.Arvind Pangaonkar, residing at #5, "SHARADA", 11th Main, Padmanabhanagar, Bengaluru 560 070. Any person's has any objection for the said transaction shall forward the same along with all relevant documents to the undersigned within 10 days from the date of this notice. If any objection's is raised after the expiry date, the same will be ignored and the transaction will be proceeded with.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the vacant site bearing No.74 in the layout formed by the Jayanagar Co-operative Housing Society Limited, Bengaluru at Gubbalalu and Turahali Layout 1st Stage in Survey Nos.54/1, 55/4, 55/5 at Gubbalalu Village, Survey Nos. 13/1, 13/3, 16/1, 16/2, 16/3, 462. 49, 52/1, 52/2, 53/1B, 67/P of Turahalli Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore presently within the limits of the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahunagara Palike, Ward No. 184, Utarahalli Ward and the site measuring East to West: 40 Feet and North to South: 30 Feet in all measuring 1200 Square Feet is bounded on the East by: Site No.64, West by: Road; North by: Site No. 73 and South by: Site No.75.

B.G. SRIRAM, Advocate
#65, 13th Main, 4th Block East, Jayanagar, Bengaluru-560 011.
Ph: 080-2653 6651

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Shri. Raj Kirtikumar, S/o. Sri. Gulraj Kothari, Aged About 71 Years, Residing at No. 151/57, Dr. Vigheas Street, Gaiwadi, Mumbai – 400 002 had appointed Sri. Ravi Sanchethi, Aged about 55 years, Residing at No.16, 2nd Floor, Above Kanthi Sweets, Kothanuru Dinne Main Road, J P Nagar 7th Phase, Bangalore – 560 078, as a General Power of Attorney for an Immoveable Property bearing House List No.17, V.P. Khatha No. 11 formed in Sy No. 23 of Gubbalalu Village, Uttarahalli, Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, dated 29.08.2019 which was duly notarized before the Advocate and Notary Public Sri. Hemanth Jangam, Reg. No 4762 in Mumbai, Maharashtra and due to some unfruitful circumstances the GPA has been cancelled and the Power given under the GPA stood cancelled. Hence it is intimated to the general public not to engage in any acts with the power of attorney holder with respect to the schedule property as the same has been cancelled.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of Property bearing V.P. Khatha No.11, formed in Sy No. 23 of Gubbalalu Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, measuring East to West 40 Ft and North to South 60 Ft and bounded as follows:-

East by : Site No. 18
West by : Site No.16
North by : Road
South by : Site No. 24

PRACHI P. JAIN LL.M.
ADVOCATE HIGH COURT
Office: 30/E, 'B' Wing, 2nd Floor, Pushpam Building, Cawasji Patel Street, Opp Yazdani Bakery, Fort, Mumbai - 400 001 Ph: 98701 52834

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Shri. Prakash Punamiya, Aged about 63 years, S/o. Shri. Mangilal Jain, R/a. No. 5, Dhus Wadi, Jogmahal Building, 1st Floor, Thakurdwar, Mumbai – 400 002 had appointed Sri. Ravi Sanchethi, Aged about 55 years, Residing at No.16, 2nd Floor, Above Kanthi Sweets, Kothanuru Dinne Main Road, J P Nagar 7th Phase, Bangalore – 560 078, as a General Power of Attorney for an Immoveable Property bearing House List No.17, V.P. Khatha No. 12 formed in Sy No. 23 of Gubbalalu Village, Uttarahalli, Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, dated 29.08.2019 which was duly notarized before the Advocate and Notary Public Sri. Hemanth Jangam, Reg. No 4762 in Mumbai, Maharashtra and due to some unfruitful circumstances the GPA has been cancelled and the Power given under the GPA stood cancelled. Hence it is intimated to the general public not to engage in any acts with the power of attorney holder with respect to the schedule property as the same has been cancelled.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of Property bearing V.P. Khatha No.12, formed in Sy No. 23 of Gubbalalu Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, measuring East to West 40 Ft and North to South 60 Ft and bounded as follows:-

East by : Site No. 24
West by : Site No.26
North by : Site No. 16
South by : Road

PRACHI P. JAIN LL.M.
ADVOCATE HIGH COURT
Office: 30/E, 'B' Wing, 2nd Floor, Pushpam Building, Cawasji Patel Street, Opp Yazdani Bakery, Fort, Mumbai - 400 001 Ph: 98701 52834

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that our Client intends to purchase the below mentioned Schedule Property from **Mrs. DEEPA KURIEN** aged about 59 years wife of Mr. Pramod Kurien residing at 102, Prestige Andree 11 and 11/1, Andree Road, Next to Yellamma Dasappa Hospital, Shanti Nagar, Wilson Garden, Bengaluru South, Bengaluru Urban - 560027 **("Owner").**

The Owner has represented that she is the absolute owner in absolute possession and enjoyment of the Schedule Property and the Schedule Property is free from any kind of encumbrances, suits, proceedings under any statute. Any person or persons asserting any right, title, interest, claim or demand whatsoever in the Schedule Property or any part thereof, by way of sale, exchange, mortgage, charge, lien, gift, inheritance, bequest, possession, lis pendens, maintenance, easement, memorandum of understanding, agreement, power of attorney, option, right of first refusal, pre-emption or otherwise whatsoever is hereby required to notify the same in writing to the undersigned within a period of **Seven (7) days** from the date of issuance of this notice with all documentary proof thereof failing which our Client will treat the title of the Schedule Property as clear, absolute and marketable and will proceed to enter into the sale transaction.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of Residential Apartment bearing No. S-07, measuring 2100 sq. ft., of super built up area in the Second Floor in the Building known as "GOLDEN ARCHID" having BBMP PID No. 76-28-10/8-48 together with one covered car parking space in the basement having car park No. S-07, along with 832.63 sq. ft., of undivided share, right, title and interest over the earlier Municipal Corporation bearing No. 10/8, earlier Corporation Division No. 61, situated at Kasturaba Road, Bengaluru Urban District – 560001, and currently the property is within the limits of BBMP Ward No. 111 – Shanthala Nagar, Bengaluru and compositely bounded as follows:-

East by : Hotel Rama;
West by : Kivraj Mansion and Private Road leading to Kasturaba Road;
North by : Premises No. 10/6; and
South by : Lavelle Road Cross leading to Casa Lavelle.

Mr. Sadananda P N
For Sadananda & Co.
No. 54/1, off 8th Cross,
Central Street Road,
Kumara Park West, Bengaluru - 560020
spn@sadanandalaw.co.in | 080-23449994

QuoteExpress

ONE BOOK, ONE PEN, ONE CHILD, AND ONE TEACHER CAN CHANGE THE WORLD

MALALA YOUSAFZAI

410L pieces of ₹2000-note worth ₹8 lakh crore were in circulation as on March 29, 2024

CAN THE FPO REVIVE FATE OF VODAFONE IDEA?

Success of ₹18,000 crore FPO would reinstate investors' faith in the telco faced with multiple challenges

RAKESH KUMAR @ New Delhi

VODAFONE Idea Limited (VIL), India's third-largest telecom service provider, is pulling out all stops to raise funds from the market to improve its financial health.

The debt-laden telco, formed in 2018 when the UK-based Vodafone India Group merged with Indian Idea Cellular, has been bleeding with massive losses and fall in the number of subscribers, losing confidence of investors at large. After having raised about ₹7,000 crore from promoters since 2022, the telco has announced a follow-on public offer (FPO) of ₹18,000 crore, the success of which would decide the fate of the company in the longer term.

After the merger of Vodafone and Idea, it became India's largest telecom operator with a market share of 32.2% in India. However, since then, it has lost a large chunk of its market share, and as per the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), it now holds 18.93% market share in the wireless segment as of February 2024.

This decline can be attributed to the lack of funds, accumulated debt, and insufficient investment in network upgrades. These factors have pushed the company to the third position in the Indian telecom market, with a continuous month-on-month loss in market share. Therefore, to arrest user loss and remain competitive, VIL requires significant amount of capital. But its efforts to raise funds for the last few years failed to yield any result. Meanwhile, its cash-rich competitors, Reliance Jio and Bharti Airtel, are leaving no stone unturned in investing in their infrastructure and network expansion.

AVERAGE REVENUE PER USER	₹145	₹135	₹124	₹107	₹121
DATE	31 Dec '23	31 Mar '23	31 Mar '22	31 Mar '21	31 Mar '20

Fund raised so far

IL has been trying to raise funds since 2020, without much success. As the company was unable to pay its adjusted gross revenue (AGR) to the government, the latter converted it into equity. The company was also struggling to pay vendors such as ATC and Indus Tower. Last year, ATC has subscribed to optionally convertible debentures of ₹1,600 crore

The company managed to raise about ₹5,000 crore in the first half of 2022.

On February 27, 2024, the telco announced plans to raise ₹45,000 crore via a combination of equity and debt. In an exchange filing, it stated that its board had approved a fundraising of up to ₹20,000 crore via a combination of equity and equity-linked instruments. Additionally, it is looking to raise an additional ₹25,000 crore through debt. Following the announcement, it raised ₹2,075 crore by issuing preferential shares to Oriana Investments, a promoter entity within the Aditya Birla Group.

The third-largest telco has announced a follow-on public offer (FPO) of equity shares aggregating up to ₹18,000 crore. VIL has set the FPO price between ₹10-₹11 per share. The higher end of the price band ₹11 represents a discount of 26% as against the recently approved preferential issue price to the promoter entity and a discount of about 15% compared to the last closing price. The FPO is scheduled to open on April 18 and close on April 22.

The FPO is going to be one of the biggest in the history after Yes Bank's ₹1,5000 crore and ONGC's ₹10,542 crore offer. Adani Enterprises' ₹20,000 crore FPO was cancelled last year. If it is fully subscribed, it will give a major boost for the company. Reports suggest the US-based investment firm GQG Partners and SBI India Mutual Fund are considering investing ₹6,500 crore in the FPO.

Analysts remain cautious about the FPO's success. As per Prashanth Tapse, vice president (Research) at Mehta Equities, the FPO's performance hinges on the execution plan and industry outlook.

"From an investor's perspective, this fundraising would lead to major equity dilution for its shareholders. Considering the near-term risks of continued losses and subscriber attrition due to lack of expansion of 4G services compared to peers like Jio and Airtel, we are not keen to advise our conservative investors to invest in the FPO. Only risky investors may consider investing in India's telecom growth story in the long term," said Tapse.

His views were echoed by Charu Paliwal, a telecom expert, who said the FPO is likely to attract more institutional investors than retail investors. "Though the capital infusion is a positive step and would provide some financial relief to the company, this FPO is likely to attract more institutional investors than retail investors as VIL is still a loss-making company and would require a high-risk appetite from retail investors."

Shivani Nyati, head of wealth at Swastika Investmart, said while the fundraising could strengthen VIL's infrastructure, the firm faces challenges on the financial front. Unlike its competitors, VIL has experienced a consistent decline in its user base. "Despite discount of 15-17%, its path to near-term revival seems uncertain. Investors should consider these factors before taking part in the FPO."

Too little, too late?

Once a dominant force in India's telecom sector, VIL finds itself grappling with a rapid fall in users and financial woes. Its inability to invest in network infrastructure or roll out its 5G networks due to lack of capital has led to a migration of customers to its rivals, Jio and Airtel. VIL posted net losses of ₹29,308 crore in FY23 as against ₹28,237 crore in the previous year. In the first nine months of FY24, it has posted net losses of ₹23,564 crore as against ₹22,822 crore in the same period previous year. Its is ARPU at ₹145, lower than Jio's ₹182 and Airtel's ₹208.

By the end of October-December quarter of 2023, its gross debt (excluding lease liabilities and including interest accrued but not due) stood at about $26.36 billion, with deferred spectrum payment obligations comprising $16.91 billion, and AGR liabilities to the government at $84.61 billion. Looking ahead, it faces an obligation to pay debts amounting to ₹5,385.4 crore by December 2024.

"If the plan gets executed well, there can be a possible return to a growth trajectory but it will still require years before it can come back with an intense competitive environment," said Tapse.

NEWSCOPE

ISRAEL SPARKS WIDENING WEST ASIA CONFLAGRATION

GURBIR SINGH

THE Middle-East is on the brink of war. Following the April 1 attack on an Iranian consulate building in Damascus, Syria by Israeli jets, and the killing of several Iranian military and diplomatic personal, Iran has threatened to wreck vengeance on Israeli and US facilities in the region. Predictably, the US and Israel have said they will respond in equal measure.

There is nervousness in Washington, Moscow and Beijing. The stage is set for an all out shooting war beyond the borders of Gaza, a war that may not be restricted to the region.

Unquestionably, this latest round of widening hostilities can be blamed squarely on the trigger-happy, right-wing Israeli government. Israel's Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, close to popular ouster at home, is doing his best to widen the war beyond Gaza to divert attention. The US, despite all of Joe Biden's soothing words, continues to arm and support Israel even as the country slowly degenerates into a rogue state on the world stage.

Israel started it

What was the need to attack an Iranian consular building in Damascus? It is a flagrant violation of international law on two counts. A consular enclave is Iranian soil by extension. Beyond that, Israel seems to have no qualms about entering Syrian airspace and territory at will to carry out assassinations of whoever they designate a 'terrorist'.Israel started it. It attacked both Iran and Syria first.

On the other hand, Iran, despite all its sabre-rattling, had made it clear it is not for escalating the Gaza. Doubtless Iran has supported militant Shia groups which are skirmishing with Israel – like the Hezbollah in Lebanon, and the Houthis in Yemen. But the sporadic rocket-fire and occasional raids on US outposts and western shipping are designed to bear diplomatic pressure to end the Gaza war, and not to exacerbate a regional conflict.

As we have noted earlier in these columns, we already have a regional conflict at hand. The Houthis since November 19 have been attacking shipping linked to the US or Israel in retaliation against Israel's invasion of Gaza. Till the end of February, Ambrey Analytics, a global risk management firm, estimated 40 ships had been hit, commandeered or sunk in the Gulf of Aden and the Red Sea.

Though these attacks have not slowed up Israel's Gaza war, the global economic repercussions on trade have been severe. The 193-km Suez Canal, which hosted nearly 24,000 vessels last calendar year, and caters to 12 percent of global trade, is virtually closed. On the other hand, the longer 4,000 km route via Africa's Cape of Good Hope, has pushed up freight costs and risk insurance premiums.

Instead of rolling back the

crisis, Israel has been extending the war through bombings and assassinations of selected targets in Lebanon and Syria. The targeted killing of the Revolutionary Guards commander Mohammad Reza Zahedi and other Quds officers on 1 April seems to have been the final straw.

Ayatollah Ali Khameni in Teheran, at a funeral speech, threatened Israel "must be punished and it shall be", as it was tantamount to an attack on Iranian soil.The Israeli response was quick: Netanyahu, standing in front of American-made F-15 fighters at the Tel Nof airbase in southern Israel, told reporters: "Whoever harms us, we will harm them."

Palpable tension

As war clouds gather, US intelligence is predicting coordinated attacks on embassies and other installations in the next few days. Joe Biden has promised retaliatory strikes, and has banned US diplomats in Israel from travel outside Tel Aviv. Lufthansa, one of the 2 western airlines stillflying to Teheran, has suspended all flights. The Middle-east is bracing for a widened Gaza war.

The immediate impact of an extended conflict is already visible. Possibilities of a West Asia conflict have pushed up crude oil prices beyond $90 a barrel. A few days ago Alireza Tangsiri, commander of Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) naval forces, said Iran could shut down the Hormuz Strait, though he said the option was not on the cards yet.

The Hormuz Strait is the choke point for oil as most of Saudi Arabia's oil terminals are located on that coastline. As many as 85-100 oil tankers pass on a daily basis through the Strait. In terms of percentage the Middle East's OPEC members account for 67 percent or over 1,000 billion barrels of the world's proven oil reserves. If Iran was to ever carry out such a threat, there will be a firefight to keep the oil trade lines open by the Western powers.

In the theatre of Eastern Europe, the Ukraine war grinds on without an end in sight. A few weeks ago, Vladimir Putin, after his 'election victory' alluded to the possibility of a World War III. Iranian foreign minister, Hossein Amir-Abdollahian, has been jetting to Saudi Arabia, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Iraq and Turkey to try and reach a Middle-East consensus against Israel.

The tension is palpable, and even a small spark can set off a galloping conflagration. England and Germany and others are scrambling to plead with Iran to observe restraint; but possibly their efforts would be served if they were directed to Israel and its ally, the US, to convince them to address the root of the problem: ending the invasion of Gaza.

'Bail not likely to improve Goyal's health'

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

MEDICAL reports did not indicate that Jet Airways founder Naresh Goyal's health would improve if he was released and he was already getting the "best possible" treatment at a hospital of his choice, a court in Mumbai has said while refusing him bail.

Special judge for cases under Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), M G Deshpande, on April 10 rejected the 74-year-old businessman's bail application, filed on the ground that he suffers from numerous life-threatening medical conditions.

The court had, in February 2024, denied interim bail to Goyal when he sought relief on the ground that he was suffering from cancer. It, however, permitted him to undergo treatment at a hospital of his choice. Later, Goyal moved another application for bail, citing the deterioration in his health since hospitalization. He suffered from fever with chills and also had psychiatric issues, he said.

The court in its detailed order, which became available on Saturday, said it had expressed concern regarding Goyal's cancer diagnosis and provided him the option of seeking treatment at the Tata Memorial cancer hospital. Goyal was receiving treatment at Reliance Foundation Hospital.

-With PTI inputs

Adani Cement eyes 20% mkt pie by FY28

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

ADANI CEMENT, which comprises ACC, Ambuja Cement and Sanghi Industries, is eyeing 20% market share by FY28 from the existing 14%, according to an investor presentation of the company.

It hopes to grow at a compounded annual growth rate of 16% to reach 140 million tonne per annum production by 2028. It predicts the cement industry to grow at a CAGR of 7-8% till 2028. To grow at 16% CAGR till 2028, Adani Cement plans to implement an accelerated capex program through internal accruals. However, the company hopes to remain debt-free despite undertaking the capex.

It sees a capacity addition program would give leverage of cost benefits over peers. "Securing major raw material assured supplies at cost competitive and efficiency & productivity improvement capex will help in cost optimisation by 8-10%," says the company in its investor presentation.

With this cost optimisation, it would reduce the gap with world's lowest cost cement maker by ₹1,000 per tonne. It has a cumulative 8,000 million tone limestone reserve in possession at NIL to nominal premium. Adani Group in 2022 acquired 63.15% stake in Ambuja Cements and 56.69% stake in ACC in a $6.4 billion deal. Last year, it acquired Gujarat-based Sanghi Industries for ₹5,000 crore.

"Strong balance sheet, better enterprise risk management, accelerated growth & cost leadership supported by group synergies is one of the most important differentiating points for Adani Cement," says the company.

Business & Beyond

Highest-ever freight loading by South Eastern Railway in 2023-24

Kolkata: With the consistent trend of registering outstanding performance, South Eastern Railway (SER) has completed the financial year 2023-24 with a record freight loading of 211.59 Million Tonnes. This is the highest ever freight loading performance of SER. In comparison to the previous year, SER has registered a growth of 4.43% in originating freight loading. Revenue generation from freight loading during 2023-24 has been highest ever. In 2023-24, SER has earned Rs.19,053 crore from originating freight traffic as against Rs.18,225.47 crore earned in 2022-23, registering a growth of 4.54%. Coal loading during financial year 2023-24 has been 53.33 Million Tonnes which is 3.28% more than that of the previous year. There has been major increase in loading of Iron Ore (5.73%), Cement (1.16%), among others.

Chittaranjan Locomotive Works produced 580 locos in FY 2023-24, highest in any fiscal

For financial year 2023-24, CLW was given production target of 540 locomotives. At the end of FY 2023-24, on 31st March, 2024,CLW achieved the production of total 580 locomotives. This is the highest locomotive production figure in any financial year in the history of CLW. Earlier, CLW has achieved the target on 29 Feb,2024 one month in advance, by producing 549 locos. GM has congratulated the Team for achieving this milestone. CLW is on the path of continuous improvement.

New Zonal manager of PNB, Bhubaneswar Zone

Bhubaneswar: Rajesh Kumar, General Manager has joined as the new Zonal Manager of Punjab National Bank, Bhubaneswar Zone. Prior to this, he was working as Circle Head of Bardhman Circle. Kumar started his career in 1995 and during his journey of over 29 years, he has worked in different capacities of the Bank in different geographies viz. Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Mumbai (Maharashtra), Delhi and Odisha.

PNB, the second largest nationalized Bank, having a wide network of 344 branches across the State of Odisha has marked contribution in socio-economic upliftment of the state populace by way of extending banking facilities, especially in agricultural and MSME sector. On joining, the new Zonal Manager expressed his hope and commitment.

The Creative Community of Goa successfully concludes its 4th Monthly meet-up, "1st Fridays"

Panaji: The 4th edition of First Fridays, themed "Discussing the Design Policy," successfully concluded at Your Story Shack on Benaulim Beach, South Goa. The meet-up organized in partnership with the SITPC, the Department of IT, and Electronics and Communications, and ADI Goa, brought together a diverse group of architects, artists, craftsmen, designers, and other creative professionals to collaborate and discuss the future of Goa's creative industry. The event commenced with Ms. Darpana Athale and Mr. Deepak Pathania providing an overview of the progress made on the design policy. Aimed at addressing Goa's economic needs, environmental pressures, and infrastructure improvements, the policy seeks to facilitate Goa's transition to a sustainable knowledge-based economy. Mr. Deepak Pathania, Chief I nnovation and Design Officer highlighted "We have created a questionnaire to delve into the challenges faced by the creative community in Goa and to identify factors that would attract designers to join this community.

New Regional Head of Union Bank, Balasore

Balasore: Asutosh Susil Kumar Patnaik has joined as the new Regional Head of Union Bank of India, Balasore Region which covers 5 Districts i.e. Balasore, Mayurbhanja, Jajpur, Bhadrak, and Keonjhar. Prior to this he was working as (AGM MLP HEAD) in Ahmadabad. Patnaik started his banking career as a Credit Officer in 2009 and has gained experience of 15 years, working on various capacities in different places in Ahmedabad, Noida, Meerut, Lucknow Regional Office and RO Mumbai as credit in charge, MLP in charge and branch head. Under his leadership, Balasore Region will cross a huge milestone in business parameter. Especially he aims to improve business by branch expansion and more focus on PAN, DHAN and MEAN. The traditional talk of Balasore means Bittle leaf, paddy and fish, the main business growth of Northen Odisha.

Nadal to make long-awaited ATP return next week

Rafael Nadal will make his return to ATP competition for the first time since January when he plays Flavio Cobolli in the Barcelona Open next week. The 22-time Grand Slam champion has played just once, in an exhibition match, since he felt a hip injury flare-up during his quarterfinal defeat by Jordan Thompson in the Brisbane Open.

While the IPL Impact Player rule was introduced last year, the way teams use it have changed significantly. **Gomesh S** takes a look at why it has happened, how the franchises have maximised their strengths and more...

RULE IN THEIR FAVOUR

WHEN the Impact Player (IP) rule was introduced in the 2023 Indian Premier League, something fundamentally changed with the way teams operate.

For starters, there was a predominant need to be proactive as a batter because teams have that extra batter who could potentially come into play. The perfect example is someone like Ruturaj Gaikwad. The Chennai Super Kings opener had a 590-run season at a strike rate of 147.5, but in the 15 innings he batted, Gaikwad had just four fifties. Gaikwad was the enforcer at the top for CSK, coming in and scoring the quickfire 30s — something that is unlike for a batter like him. But he had made peace with it because of the IP rule. "With the impact player rule, you have to make sure you don't hold yourself back," he had said.

It is just one side of the cause and effect, and it has remained the same in 2024 as well. However, there is something else that has changed. When the IP rule came into play months before the IPL season, initially, people needed some time to understand how it works. How it fundamentally changes the way the game is played. It is no more a 11 vs 11, but a 12 vs 12. Teams had already been formed and last year, the emphasis was on adding the extra 20-odd runs. While some teams had a consistent use of IP rule for specific players, it was not the case for all. CSK, for example, kept Ambati Rayudu as IP substitute on most occasions while a team like Rajasthan Royals were using Dhruv Jurel as the extra batter in the lower-order because of their long lower-order (read bowlers).

This year, however, it is different. Knowing that the rule will be in place, teams seem to have constructed their squads in such a way that they can have ultra-specific roles. For CSK, Shivam Dube has become the IP player, Mohit Sharma for Gujarat Titans, Khaleel Ahmed for Delhi Capitals and Arshdeep Singh for Punjab Kings. While it might seem like they all have a fixed role to play — and they do — there is more to it. Although, they are the go-to IP subs for their respective teams, who comes in for them and when changes according to various factors from toss to opponent to conditions. This is not just about being proactive and going for the extra 20 runs, but also about maximising the strengths as much as they can.

TOP PERFORMERS

ALTHOUGH TEAMS ARE STARTING TO USE THE IMPACT PLAYER RULE MORE STRATEGICALLY, SOME PLAYERS HAVE FARED BETTER THAN OTHERS. A LOOK...

ARSHDEEP SINGH

As is the case with the bowlers, the impact is not a guarantee. But often times, teams stick to the plan because it works for them and the Punjab Kings pacer is one such case. He has eight wickets in five games, averaging 20 while operating at 8.72 runs per over.

NANDRE BURGER

Rajasthan Royals are one of the few teams that has been clear about their plans and the left-arm pacer has come in handy for them. Used as an impact sub in two games, he has taken three wickets in the six overs he has bowled. In the other two games, he was kept in the XI and someone else was subbed in.

MOHIT SHARMA

One glance at the scorecard and it might not show, but the pacer has been mighty effective for Gujarat Titans. He has a designated job to come in and bowl in difficult situations and Mohit's numbers tell the story. In six games, he has taken eight wickets while conceding 9.39 runs per over.

SHIVAM DUBE

While he has come in as a sub on occasions last year as well, this season, it has been the designated role of the CSK hitter. Dube, as an Impact sub, has smashed 176 runs in 110 balls at 160 strike rate. That he has evolved and upskilled himself as a batter over the last 12 months has only helped him deliver consistently.

SPECIAL MENTIONS: They either do not have an imposing strike rate or have not been used consistently enough. But B Sai Sudharsan, Dinesh Karthik, Mahipal Lomror, Mustafizur Rahman are some notable mentions among the impact subs this season.

IMPACT SUB Numbers in 2024

152.9	AVG BAT SR
10.9	AVG ECO
18.34	AVG BOW SR

* Cumulative average till match 26

Take the case of RR. Unlike Jurel last year, they have gone in with three overseas players into the field almost every time they batted first. And then, depending on how the batting goes, they have replaced a top-order batter with a front-line bowler in Nandre Burger. If they bowl first, Yuzvendra Chahal seems to be the IP player replacement with a batter coming in. To an extent, it seems like teams have come into the season with a better understanding of the rules. Sankar Rajgopal, who used to work as a R&D Consultant and Analyst at Punjab Kings, explains. "Like any rule which sort of shakes the foundation, people take time to realize that. It was meant to be a 12 versus 12 last year as well. Just that teams may perhaps be looking to fill a gap that they have. Whereas, I think, this year, what is happening is that teams sometimes look at the strengths and add to their strengths as well," Rajgopal, who now works as Creative Director at Viacom18 Media, said.

Sunday Special

If teams learning to make the most of the rule is on one side, players, too, have understood the need to upskill, especially the batters. Till the 26th match of the season (Delhi Capitals vs Lucknow Super Giants), 56 batters, who have either been subbed or come in as one, have cumulatively hit 1352 runs in 884 balls. The average strike rate is about 152.9. Dube, once again, is among the top few with 176 runs at 160 SR. There are many cases where teams have used another top-order batter as an IP sub when there is a collapse in the powerplay (Mumbai Indians, Royal Challengers Bengaluru, and DC for example) while trying to keep the intent going. "I think, this year, we're seeing now a real appetite for taking advantage of the extra depth that impact sub brings," said Cricket Strategist & Recruitment Analyst Dan Weston. "We're seeing the value in terms of the threat of losing three wickets in the powerplay is now not quite as much for teams, so that now they could be like 60/3 after the powerplay with an impact sub and actually they're not in that bad shape. Whereas, in previous years, losing three in the powerplay, everyone thought it was a disaster," he added.

On one side, there are also cases where bowlers went for runs without making any impact whatsoever after coming in as a sub. Bowlers like Mohit, Khaleel are used as IP sub while a few other teams are flexible with the substitution. That only 47 players involved with the IP rule have bowled compared to 56 batters tells how teams are still learning how to make the most of it on a given day. There is still a lot to be looked at with regard to the IP rule, including understanding how a batter or a bowler's stats are analysed in the IPL to the international level. But, as Rajgopal said, when something shakes the foundation of the sport, it takes time for everyone to make sense of it. And we will know and understand more about the Impact Player rule better in the forthcoming seasons.

DOPING CONCERN

2023 could be worse, athletics still on top

THERE seems no end to top athletes testing positive for banned substances. Recently, top national and international athletes figured on the list of provisional suspension of the National Anti-Doping Agency. Though the list is yet to be updated on the website, the names and figures are quite alarming, especially for athletics. And now there are reports that a top athlete, a thrower, joined the list for testing for a substance used for treating infertility.

Yet, if the provisional suspension list is an indication, doping is as believed to be prevalent in top-flight athletics. Top names, considered to be up-and-coming stars including steeplechase runner Mohammed Nur Hasan, have tested positive as per NADA's provisionally suspended list. The Federation Cup champion impressed all with his run of 8:30.56s last year. National record holder Avinash Sable was the only athlete to have run faster than him. As many as 44 names were added to the provisional suspension list as of April 5, 2024.

As usual, athletics finds itself on top of the provisional suspension list with 16 names. Murali Kumar Gavit, a 2019 Asian Championship silver medallist in 10,000m, is another big fish in the doping net. Other names include World Cross Country Championships participants Hemraj Gurjar and Anjali Kumari. Weightlifting is the next with 13 defaults. Long distance runner from Tamil Nadu, G Lakshmanan, was suspended for two years post Anti-Doping Disciplinary Panel (ADDP) hearing. Sprinter Himani Chandel was handed a four-year ban.

FLIPSIDE

INDRANEEL DAS

What seems more worrying is the positive cases among minors. There are about 17 minors out of which 14 of them had taken the Case Resolution Agreement route for a three-year suspension. As pointed out in these columns, minors usually do not take banned substances on their own. Onus should be on the parents and coaches to keep them clean and when they test positive, they should be questioned as well.

If India's 125 Adverse Analytical Finding (AAF) out of 3865 samples in 2022 World Anti Doping Agency's Testing Figures Report was not embarrassing enough, going by the 2023 numbers available on the NADA website, things are expected to get worse next year. The numbers of positive cases may go well past 130. There are at least 70 names who have taken three-year suspension under Article 10.8.1 & 8.3 of NADA. As per names whose ineligibility period starts in 2023 in the Anti-Doping Disciplinary Panel, the list is about 60. In 2022, as per the WADA report, there were 125 positive cases recorded by anti-doping watchdog in India, NADA, out of which at least 45 are from athletics. In terms of percentage, as reported by this newspaper, at 3.2 per cent NADA recorded the highest conversion rate. And minors testing positive remains a concern.

A clearer picture can be seen when we take the breakup. Going by the list of ineligible athletes for 2022 on the NADA website, about 47 athletes have tested positive, followed by wrestling with 18 positives and weightlifting about 17. Even in 2022, there were at least three minors in athletics. There was one in wrestling while there were two in weightlifting.

When it comes to conversion rate, athletics had collected close to 100o samples out and positives were about 4.6 per cent.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

MID-TABLE BATTLE

With multiple teams trying to breakthrough the congestion in the table, a look at the two clashes on Sunday...

Can LSG stop KKR?

Kolkata Knight Riders have been a top-heavy batting side with Andre Russell and Rinku Singh carrying the middle order. But against them, the battle is often lost in the powerplay. Will Lucknow be able to avert that?

Bumrah vs Dube

In five innings, Jasprit Bumrah has got Shivam Dube out twice and the batter has only managed ten runs. Although he has evolved and is a better version of himself, it will be a tough challenge for Dube.

Heavy-weight clash

Billed as the most anticipated rivalry in the IPL, CSK and MI will play only once in league stages this year. Both teams just got back to winning ways, and Mumbai, more than Chennai, would be hoping to continue the momentum to break into the mid-table spot.

Kolkata Knight Riders **vs** Lucknow Super Giants, Kolkata, 3.30 PM

Mumbai Indians **vs** Chennai Super Kings, Wankhede, 7.30 PM

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS AND JIOCINEMA

Royal spinners deliver clinical victory

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Chennai

A PROFESSIONAL display by Rajasthan Royals helped them to beat Punjab Kings by three wickets in a thrilling match that went down to the wire at the Maharaja Yadavindra Singh International Cricket Stadium in Mullanpur.

Yashasvi Jaiswal (39) gave the table toppers a good start and Shimron Hetmyer finished the game in style with a six off the penultimate ball of the game. Chasing 148 for a win, their openers Jaiswal (39) and Tanush Kotian (24) gave a good start. Then Samson was expected to consolidate but failed this time around. Riyan Parag and Dhruv Jurel assessed the conditions for a while and once they grew in confidence runs came but not at the expected clip. Parag fell after an 18-ball 23, holing out Arshdeep in the deep with Rabada taking the prized catch. Jurel too perished due to poor shot selection. Suddenly Punjab were sight of victory. But Shimron Hetmyer with a valuable 27 not out won the game for Rajasthan.

Keshav Maharaj accounted for two key PBKS batters on Saturday | EXPRESS

Earlier, Avesh Khan and Keshav Maharaj took two wickets each at the right junctures to prevent Punjab from breaching the 150-run mark. After half the batters were back in the dugout without troubling the scorers Jitesh Sharma (29) and Ashutosh Sharma (31) played sensibly to help their team post a respectable score. Both teams were made to have forced changes due to injuries and niggles to key players.

Brief scores: Punjab 147/8 in 20 ovs (Jitesh 29, Ashutosh 31) **lost to** Rajasthan 152/7 in 19.5 ovs (Hetmyer 27, Rabada 2/18).

Five-star Man City go top in EPL, Spurs lose

AGENCIES @London

MANCHESTER City moved to the top of the Premier League as lowly Luton were eased aside 5-1 at the Etihad, while Newcastle thrashed Tottenham 4-0 on Saturday.

City seemed set for a stress-free afternoon from the moment they opened the scoring after just two minutes. Erling Haaland's shot deflected in off the unfortunate Daiki Hashioka into his own net.

Yet the floodgates refused to open as the English champions had to wait until after the hour mark before making the points safe when Mateo Kovacic smashed in Julian Alvarez's cross at the edge of the box.

Newcastle's Alexander Isak scored a double against Tottenham | AFP

Results: Brentford **2-0** Sheffield; Burnley **1-1** Brighton; Man City **5-1** Luton; Newcastle **4-0** Tottenham; Nottingham Forest **2-2** Wolves; Bournemouth **2-2** Man United.

EXPRESS READ

India hockey team suffers 0-5 whitewash

PERTH: The Indian men's hockey team failed to avoid a 0-5 series whitewash after losing 2-3 in the fifth Test against Australia, completing a nightmare of a tour. Skipper Harmanpreet Singh (4th) and Boby Singh Dhami (53rd) were the goalscorers for India, while Australia scored through Jeremy Hayward (20th), Ky Willott (38th) and Tim Brand (39th).

Odisha suffer defeat in final league game

GUWAHATI: Odisha FC suffered a 0-3 defeat at the hands of NorthEast United in their final league game of the ongoing ISL season here. Parthib Gogoi (12'), Nestor Albiach (16') and Konsam Phalguni Singh (45+3') were on the scoresheet for NorthEast. Odisha will be hoping to forget this setback soon and do better during the playoffs.

Boxer Amit back to the fore as BFI names squad

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Chennai

AFTER a forgettable campaign in the last Olympic qualifier in Italy, changes were inevitable for Indian boxing. As many as five boxers have lost their spot for the final qualifiers in Bangkok, which is scheduled to start from May 23 to June 3.

Two-time Olympian Shiva Thapa (63.5kg) is one of marquee names to miss out. Deepak Bhoria (51kg) has suffered a similar fate. Instead, Amit Panghal, who was one of the famed boxers in the build-up to the Tokyo Olympics, has regained his place as the Boxing Federation of India (BFI) announced the nine-person squad for the all-important event on Saturday. It should be noted that Indian male boxers have not won a single quota so far. Also missing out was 2023 World Championships bronze medallist Mohammad Hussamuddin. One person who has expectedly retained his spot is Nishant Dev (71kg). He had just missed out on the Olympic quota after reaching the quarterfinal stages in Italy.

Amit Panghal (R) | FILE PIC

Squad: Men: Amit Panghal (51kg), Sachin Siwach (57kg), Abhinash Jamwal (63.5kg), Nishant Dev (71kg), Abhimanyu Loura (80kg), Sanjeet (92kg), Narender Berwal (+92kg). **Women:** Ankushita Boro (60kg), Arundhati Choudhary (66kg).

MASTERS GOLF

New faces look to challenge US trio

AGENCIES @Augusta

TOP-RANKED Scottie Scheffler, 2020 US Open champion Bryson DeChambeau and unlikely challenger Max Homa set the pace while newcomers threatened a charge as Saturday's third round of the Masters began.

The American trio stood on six-under par 138 after 36 holes at the famed course, the first time since 2001 that an all-US threesome led at the halfway mark at Augusta National.

Scheffler, the 2022 Masters winner, has been the oddsmakers' darling and could join Tiger Woods as the only players to win the green jacket twice while world number one.

DeChambeau was among eight players from Saudi-backed LIV Golf who made the cut, including defending champ Jon Rahm. Homa, chasing his first Major win, had never before finished in the top five after any round at a Major, but led the Masters by making 26 of 36 greens in regulation as well as in proximity to the holes. Only 14 players withstood swirling winds to finish under par after two rounds, but they include some newcomers eager to become the first rookie to win the green jacket since Fuzzy Zoeller in 1979. Denmark's Nicolai Hojgaard was fourth on 140 in his first Masters while his 2023 European Ryder Cup teammate Ludvig Aberg of Sweden was seventh on 142 in his Major debut, having had the day's best round on a blustery Friday.

SCORES (AFTER RD 2)

138 - Max Homa (USA) 67-71, Scottie Scheffler (USA) 66-72, Bryson DeChambeau (USA) 65-73; 140 - Nicolai Hoejgaard (DEN) 67-73; 141 - Cameron Davis (AUS) 69-72, Collin Morikawa (USA) 71-70; 142 - Ludvig Aberg (SWE) 73-69.

Scottie Scheffler in action during the second round on Friday | AFP

CANDIDATES CHESS

Pragg, Gukesh seek vital points

AGENCIES @Toronto

INDIAN Grandmasters R Praggnanandhaa and D Gukesh would look to bridge the gap with leader Ian Nepomniachtchi of Russia when they restart their campaigns in the eighth round of the Candidates chess tournament. Teen sensation Praggnanandhaa will be up against Frenchman Firouza Alireza, while Gukesh will take on compatriot Vidit Gujarathi.

Pairings round 8 (Indians unless specified): R Praggnanandhaa (4) vs Firouza Alireza (Fra, 2.5); Vidit Gujrathi (3.5) vs D Gukesh (4); Hikaru Nakamura (Usa, 3.5) vs Fabiano Caruana (Usa, 4); Ian Nepomniachtchi (Fid, 4.5) vs Nijat Abasov (Aze, 2).

Women: Zhongyi Tan (5) vs Tingjei Lei (Chn, 4); Koneru Humpy (2.5) vs R Vaishali (2.5); Nurgyul Salimova (Bul, 3) vs Anna Muzychuk (Ukr, 2.5) drew with K Humpy (2.5); Lagno Kateryna (Fid, 4) vs Aleksandra Goryachkina (Fid, 4.5).

HOW SC PUSHED THE VVPAT TRANSPARENCY ENVELOPE SO FAR

MUKESH RANJAN @ New Delhi

WHEN the Supreme Court recently sought responses from the Election Commission of India and the Centre on a plea seeking full count of VVPAT (Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail) slips in polls, several political parties saw in it an important first step to make the election process free and fair. At present, VVPAT paper slips of only five randomly-selected EVMs (Electronic Voting Machines) in each assembly constituency or each assembly segment of a parliamentary constituency are physically verified.

The VVPAT is an independent vote verification system which permits an elector to see whether the vote he cast went to the right candidate. The VVPAT case will come up before the SC on April 16 — three days before the first phase of the general elections are scheduled to take place.

Though the government buys nearly 24 lakh VVPATs, paper slips of around 20,000 such machines alone are physically counted. But since questions keep swirling over the reliability of the electronic voting process, all VVPAT slips must be counted, the plea emphasised since even a single mismatch could vitiate voter trust in free and fair elections. The petitioners criticised the ECI's existing stipulation of sequential verification of five VVPATs, saying if simultaneous verification is done instead and more officers deployed for counting, complete VVPAT verification can be done within five to six hours.

Echoing the plea, the Congress in its election manifesto promised that if it gets the popular mandate, election laws would suitably be amended to allow the voter to hold and deposit the machine-generated voting slip into the VVPAT unit after casting the ballot through the EVM.

Besides, "The electronic vote tally will be matched against the VVPAT slip tally," the manifesto added.

Existing system

In the VVPAT system, a paper slip bearing the serial number, name and symbol of the candidate who gets the vote is generated after a voter presses the relevant button on the EVM to exercise his franchise. The vote is also recorded in the Control Unit. If there is any dispute, the paper slips can be counted to verify the result on the EVM. A printer attached to the balloting unit is kept in the voting compartment.

A voter, after pressing the button on the balloting unit, can view the printed slip on VVPAT through the viewing window so as to verify if the vote recorded is for the candidate of his/her choice. The paper slip remains visible on the VVPAT for seven seconds through a transparent window. Thereafter, it automatically gets cut and falls in the sealed drop box of the VVPAT. By amending the Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961, the introduction of VVPATs was facilitated in 2013.

Former Chief Election Commissioner O P Rawat said thermal paper is used for VVPAT slips, which can dissolve in liquid very easily. Since printing on this paper is done through 'burning' as no ink is used, at the time of counting there could be difficulty in visual identification of the symbols, he warned.

Swamy push

It all began after the BJP led by L K Advani lost in the 2009 Lok Sabha elections against the ruling UPA coalition. The saffron party blamed it on the EVMs. Shortly thereafter, Dr Subramanian Swamy approached the Delhi High Court seeking directions to the ECI to incorporate a system of 'paper trail/paper receipt' in the EVMs as proof that they correctly registered the vote cast in favour of a particular candidate. But it was disallowed in January 2012. Swamy then approached the SC.

Swamy's case was that the system of EVMs prevalent at the time did not meet international benchmarks though the ECI maintained that EVMs could not be tampered with. During the hearing, he said the ECI had refused to incorporate a safeguard in the EVMs called paper backup, paper receipt or paper trail, which would easily and cheaply meet the requirement of proof. For its part, the ECI informed the court that it was exploring the introduction of a viable VVPAT mechanism in EVMs to ensure transparency. The court in its judgment in 2013 said 'paper trail' was an indispensable requirement of free and fair elections, and directed the ECI to introduce the VVPAT mechanism.

Guideline 16.6

Subsequently, the ECI issued a manual on the EVM and VVPAT, Guideline 16.6 of which stipulated that an EVM in only one randomly selected polling station in each assembly constituency or each assembly segment of a parliamentary constituency, shall undergo verification of VVPAT slips.

In 2019, as many as 21 Opposition leaders petitioned the SC, seeking the quashing of Guideline 16.6 and a direction to the ECI to verify 50% of VVPAT slips in each Assembly segment for the Lok Sabha polls or the constituency in assembly polls. But the ECI argued that it would result in huge infrastructure problems and manpower issues. It shared that sample verification of VVPAT paper trail of one EVM was done by a team of three officers under the direct supervision of the Returning Officer and the Election Observer of the constituency. The process took about an hour, so what the petitioner asked for could delay the declaration of the results of 2019 elections by five to six days.

Former CEC Rawat said the poll panel did extensive consultation with the Indian Statistical Institute (ISI) in Kolkata and Delhi on the issue. "In their report to the poll panel, they said it was difficult to arrive at a 100% match on the verification of votes. But verification of the VVPAT paper trail of 479 randomly selected EVMs would generate over 99.99% accuracy," Rawat recalled the report as having said. The scale of voting is humongous as it takes place at over 10 lakh polling stations in any national election, he added.

Defending Guideline 16.6, Rawat said, it mandated that VVPAT paper trail of 4,300 EVMs - instead of 479 EVMs suggested by the ISI - is verified. However, the SC found a middle path to generate the "greatest degree of satisfaction in all with regard to the full accuracy of the election results" by enhancing from one to five the number of random polling stations in each assembly constituency or each assembly segment of a parliamentary constituency where the VVPAT slips will be verified.

Voter turnout data and final vote count

After the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, when VVPATs were introduced for the first time, Trinamool Congress leader Mahua Moitra approached the SC seeking directions to the poll body to publish details of the voter turnout and the final vote count in the elections on their website. The same year, alleging serious discrepancies between the number of voters in different constituencies (i.e. the voter turnout data collated independently and the figures provided by the ECI) and the number of votes counted, the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) and Common Cause jointly moved the SC. They stressed that the ECI has a statutory duty to collate and publish accurate data on the elections.

In 2023, ADR filed another petition contending the SC-mandated procedure through which the ECI cross-verifies EVMs with the VVPATs in only five randomly selected polling stations in each assembly constituency, is deficient. It said every voter has a fundamental right to verify that their vote has been 'recorded as cast' and 'counted as recorded'. It said the ECI has provided no procedure for every voter to verify that their vote has been 'counted as recorded' which is an indispensable part of voter verifiability.

In its counter affidavit, the ECI said counting all VVPAT paper slips manually would not only be labour and time-intensive, but also be prone to human error and mischief.

Concurring with the ECI, former CEC Rawat said, "Going for 100% matching of paper trails with the EVMs cannot be done and it is actually unnecessary... Troublemakers now want to go back to the physical ballot system, which could mean a revival of the booth capturing and muscle power era in elections," he noted.

Whether the call for further transparency would get the Supreme Court's vote at the April 16 hearing is anybody's guess.

KEY FEATURES OF M-3 EVMs/VVPATs

- Standalone Machine: EVM is a standalone system not connected with the external world through any wired or wireless network medium
- Unauthorised Access Detection Module (UADM): UADM embedded in the machine disables EVM permanently if any attempt is made to access microcontroller or memory
- Advanced Encryption Techniques: Encrypted communication between Control Unit, Ballot Unit and VVPAT cannot be deciphered by tapping cables
- Automated self diagnostics on every switch ON: EVM checks its own health parameters each time it is switched ON
- Strong Mutual Authentication Capability: The strong mutual authentication capability ensures that no unauthorised device can interact with EVM
- No Radio Frequency Transmission or Reception Capability: Tampering of ECI-EVMs by any wireless coded signal using any protocol (Bluetooth, WIFI, RFID, NFD etc.) is ruled out as EVM does not have any radio frequency (RF) communication capability, hence cannot communicate through any wireless protocol
- One Time Programmable (OTP): The software used in these machines is key hashed and burnt into a One Time Programmable (OTP) chip at the time of manufacturing. It cannot be altered or tampered with
- Dynamic Coding of Key Presses: Every key press is coded dynamically making it impossible for anyone to decode the signals flowing among the Control Unit, Balloting Unit and VVPAT
- Real Time Clock for date and time stamping of events: Every authorised or unauthorised key press is recorded with date and time stamp on real time basis

Source: Election Commission of India

FACTOIDS

1. EVM was first conceived in 1977. Its prototype was developed by Electronics Corporation of India Ltd (ECIL), Hyderabad in 1979 and demonstrated by the ECI before representatives of political parties on August 6, 1980
2. After reaching a wide consensus, EVMs were deployed on a pilot basis on May 19, 1982. The law was amended by Parliament in December 1988 and a new Section 61A was included in the Representation of the People Act 1951, thereby empowering the ECI to use EVMs. The amendment came into force on March 15, 1989
3. Bharat Electronics Ltd (BEL), Bangalore, selected along with ECIL to manufacture EVMs
4. Centre set up an Electoral Reforms Committee (ERC) in January 1990, consisting of representatives from several national and state-level political parties under the chairmanship of Dinesh Goswami. The ERC recommended the examination of EVM by a team of technical experts
5. A Technical Expert Committee (TEC) in April 1990 unanimously recommended the use of EVMs, stating it was technically sound, secure and transparent
6. In 1998, EVMs were used in 16 assembly constituencies across three states of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Delhi
7. EVMs were deployed in 1999 at 46 parliamentary constituencies, and later, in February 2000, EVMs were used in 45 constituencies in the Haryana assembly polls. In 2001, the assembly elections in Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Puducherry and West Bengal were completely conducted using EVMs. All state assembly elections thereafter witnessed the use of EVMs
8. In 2004, EVMs were used in all 543 LS constituencies
9. Pre-2006 EVMs were known as 'Ml EVMs', while EVMs manufactured between 2006 to 2010 were called 'M2 EVMs'. The latest generation of EVMs, produced since 2013 are known as 'M3 EVMs'
10. VVPAT was first used in the by-election for 51-Noksen assembly constituency in Nagaland

First challenge to EVM

In 1982, when EVM was first used in Kerala as a pilot project, candidate Sivan Pillai challenged its use even before the election. But the Kerala High Court did not entertain his challenge. Pillai won that election. But his opponent challenged the introduction of EVMs thereafter. That election was re-conducted with paper ballots after a Supreme Court ruling in 1984. The ruling was about a technicality, which was corrected through amendment of the Representation of the People Act 1951 in 1988.

Greater participation

The introduction of EVMs was frowned upon by certain sections citing the large-scale illiteracy and socio-economic backwardness of the country. But, a joint study of Indian School of Business, Indian Statistical Institute and Brookings Institution in 2017 with the help of post-poll survey data between 2000 and 2005 from the independent Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS), showed that EVMs led to greater participation in electoral process by the marginalised and vulnerable voters such as women, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes

CAN A SHIFT TO LABOUR-INTENSIVE MANUFACTURING SOLVE INDIA'S JOBS CRISIS?

DIPAK MONDAL @ New Delhi

ARVIND Panagariya, chairman of the 16th Finance Commission and former vice-chairman of Niti Aayog, while interacting with this newspaper's editorial team last year, made an interesting point in response to a question on the lack of job creation in the economy. He said India, since the 1950s, chose to invest in capital-intensive sectors such as petroleum refineries and that model continues.

"India remains a very capital-intensive or skilled labour-intensive economy with investments mostly in machinery, chemical, pharmaceuticals, finance. These are either capital-intensive or skills-based industries," Panagariya said. He cited the example of China, which he said in the 1990s emerged as the top exporter of clothing and textiles, a labour-intensive sector. "If we can shift towards labour-intensive industries, we can solve the problem of jobs," he said. Panagariya is known for his criticism of Nehruvian economic policies.

Ahead of the Parliamentary elections, as political parties raise their pitch to woo voters, the opposition parties have been trying to make joblessness a potent issue. The election manifesto of the Congress has a full section on jobs. "In order to become a developed economy and create good quality jobs for hundreds of thousands of youth, it is critical that India transitions from a consumer economy to a producer economy," reads its manifesto.

While the tone and tenor of the manifesto is not much different from what the ruling BJP is claiming to be doing — making India a manufacturing hub — the subtle shift in the Congress thrust to promote labour-intensive manufacturing units that employ low-skilled workers is hard to miss.

"MSME is the creator of the largest number of jobs, especially for workers with average education," says the manifesto, which seems to be making amends for its past 'mistakes'.

Producer economy

The Congress promises to take the share of manufacturing in GDP from 14% currently to 20% in the next five years. Remember, the BJP had made similar promises — that it would take the share of manufacturing from 15% to 25% — but it has only fallen. The share of manufacturing as a percentage of nominal GDP has been dropping since 2010 when it was 17%. Today, it is at 14%.

The Congress says the party "will support the private sector and every kind of enterprise — large, medium, small and micro — in their endeavour to create jobs and produce goods and services". The party envisages other measures like an improved production-linked incentive, or PLI, (without elaborating what improvements) and an employment-linked incentive scheme — for promoting manufacturing especially in those sectors that create jobs.

"Congress will aim for India attaining a position of leadership in multiple industries such as steel, metals, garments and textiles, cement, automobiles, electronic goods, pharmaceuticals, engineering goods, petroleum products, chemicals, and mining rare earths and critical minerals," the manifesto says.

Shift towards labour-intensive sector

The Congress' new focus is also in line with the latest report of the International Labour Organization (ILO), that India must give primacy to labour-intensive manufacturing employment to absorb the abundant unskilled labour. But most of the sectors mentioned by Congress in its manifesto are no longer labour-intensive. Mechanisation and automation have changed many labour-intensive sectors into capital intensive sectors.

Economist Prof Arun Kumar says Tata Steel, which used to produce 2.5 million tonnes of steel in the 1990s, used to employ 88,000 people. Today, 30,000 people produce 16 million tonnes of steel for the Tatas. He also says that sectors like construction, which used to employ a large number of low-skilled workers, are now increasingly becoming highly mechanised, requiring fewer workers.

The shift towards labour-intensive sectors is easier said than done. As Prof Kumar points out, the traditional labour-intensive nature of many sectors like construction and agriculture is being displaced by the automated ones. The present government has identified sectors like textiles, plastics, toys, footwear, auto components, sports goods, agri- and food processing as labour-intensive sectors.

Through interventions like higher import duty on toys, the government has been able to rejuvenate the sector. A study by the Indian Institute of Management, Lucknow, under the supervision of the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, revealed significant progress in the toys sector during 2022-23, compared to 2014-15. The analysis showed a 52% decline in toy imports, coupled with an impressive 239% growth in toy exports during the period. But in sectors like textiles, India continues to lose its edge to countries like Bangladesh and Vietnam.

The PLI scheme has seen a jump in mobile phone manufacturing, which, according to Union telecom minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, created 5 lakh incremental jobs in India. But it is not a labour-intensive sector and as per former RBI chairman Raghuram Rajan, the value addition by Indian manufacturers is just 4% and, therefore, the job opportunities are limited.

Shift away from the service sector?

The Congress' focus on a shift towards a producer economy is at odds with Raghuram Rajan's prescription. He is considered ideologically closer to the Congress. Rajan has been harping on India pivoting to capitalise its edge in the services sector rather than pushing to make the country a manufacturing hub. He says from 2012 to 2021, we created only 3 million new jobs in manufacturing, but added 20 million jobs in the services sector. He, therefore, argues the focus ought to shift to the service sector, where India has been more successful. He cites the example of chip designing, where India has a 20% market share through back offices of large global chip makers. But in the name of chip manufacturing, India is only aspiring to be an assembling and packaging of chips, he points out.

Does the services sector generate low-skilled jobs? Rajan says it does, like those of security guards, retail and tourism jobs. His criticism of setting up manufacturing units that create low-skilled jobs stems from the fact that they are also the lowest part of the value chain.

The problem with organised sector

Prof Arun Kumar points out that 94% of the employment is in the unorganised sector, which has been declining constantly ever since demonetisation in 2016. Implementation of the Goods and Services Tax made matters worse. He adds the government's focus has been to bring more investment in the organised sector, which creates little employment.

According to a report by the People's Commission on Employment and Unemployment, the organised sector has been growing at the expense of the unorganised sector and reducing the employment potential of the economy. It lists four economic shocks — demonetisation in 2016, GST implementation in 2017, NBFC crisis in 2017 and lockdown in 2020, which delivered a body blow to the unorganised sector.

Jobless growth remains a big puzzle. According to the report, only 332 million Indians are properly employed. Not many believe that shifting to labour-intensive manufacturing alone will be able to solve India's employment problem. "The right balance of capital and labour enables optimal economic productivity. We need adequate capital investments to crowd in labour/employment, even within labour-intensive sectors. Private capex cycle needs to gather momentum," says Debopam Chaudhuri, chief economist, Piramal Enterprises.

Cost implications

The Congress manifesto also talks about the 'right to apprenticeship' to the youth, at a cost of ₹10,000-15,000 crore a year, to address unemployment. The cost implications of other promises, including the transfer of ₹1 lakh per year to the poor, are not clear. According to Praveen Chakravorty, who was part of the manifesto drafting team, it could be in the range of ₹5-6 lakh crore over five years. That's a little over ₹1 lakh crore per year.